

# WALSALL CHRONICLE



Thursday, September 13, 2012

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## Tee time

Company's golf day boosts cancer care

See page 2



## Boxing clever

Young women pulling no punches at popular class

See page 15



## Village focus

Latest on new centre and other news from Pelsall

See page 26



## £10m plan proposed to revamp main road

AROUND £10 million will be ploughed into improving one of the busiest routes through Walsall under plans to ease congestion.

New signalled junctions will be created, pedestrian crossing points added and better bus stops installed as part of the scheme for the A461 Lichfield Road.

Walsall Council is leading the proposals although its highways officers say they are currently in the concept stage and, even if rubber-stamped, work will not begin until at least 2015.

The route is the main link between Walsall town centre and Brownhills. Initial details for the scheme have been revealed as it has emerged £100,000 has been set aside to look at the feasibility of works.

### Roundabout

Areas earmarked for improvements include the Mellish Road roundabout; Rushall traffic lights; Salters Road traffic lights and Shire Oak traffic lights.

Car parking, pedestrian crossing points and bus stops and shelters will also be improved.

It comes as a £26m plan to create a new road network in Darlaston is due to get under way next year as part of moves for the enterprise zone. The scheme is set to see better access links connecting Darlaston to the A454 and the M6.

## Church fund gets a boost

AN HISTORIC church in Walsall has received a funding boost as part of its ambitious £195,000 conservation plans.

Rushall Parish Church is looking to preserve its distinctive features, including rare paintings which date back more than a century.

The church has been awarded a total of £3,000 from the Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust. The Leigh Road church has already received almost £70,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other sources.

# ELLIE TO CHOOSE HER CELEBRATION



Report by Craig Hughes

**WALSALL** swimming sensation Ellie Simmonds will most likely want to share her homecoming celebrations with young people across the borough, her proud parents say.

The teenage star of the London 2012 Paralympics is to be recognised in her hometown after scooping four medals including two golds at the Games.

Walsall Mayor Councillor Dennis Anson is due to hold talks with the 17-year-old and her family and she will be allowed to choose the type of reception she wants.

Her mother Val said: "We are touched that so many people are supporting the mayor in wanting to celebrate Ellie's achievements and thank them for both their good wishes and suggestions.

"But Ellie will be the one who decides what sort of event that might be."

"She is in the media spotlight a lot, as that goes with the territory of her swimming role, but she is quite a private person who likes to get on with things quietly with no fuss."

"I don't know how she'd feel about an open top bus, for instance. But I can see her wanting to share any celebration with other young people."

### Encourage

"She is very keen to encourage and support other youngsters, of all abilities."

She added: "The calls for the Gala Baths to be re-named are very flattering but Ellie hasn't done any training there and that wouldn't really be appropriate. We used to live in Streetly so she trained in Sutton Coldfield."

"We are thrilled that Cooper and Jordan School has re-named its pool though, because Ellie actually swam in it regularly as a pupil there."

"When people ask us where we consider home to be there's no doubt in our minds. It's Aldridge in the borough of Walsall. And that's where Ellie loves to be."

Councillor Anson, said: "That sounds like a lovely gesture, to involve local youngsters in any celebration."

"We absolutely understand that Ellie and her family need time together after the Paralympic Games and will be happy to meet with them whenever they can manage."

A post box has been painted gold in Aldridge in honour of her achievements.

## Sunflower reaches for the sky



David Sperring from Willenhall with his huge sunflower

A PUNGENT ingredient has sent a green-fingered gardener's sunflower reaching for the sky

David Sperring, from Willenhall, has found that liberal doses of horse manure has done the trick when it comes to growing huge specimens.

In his garden he has a soaring sunflower that has reached the lofty height of 13ft 2ins.

And that's not all, he has another two sunflowers that are both 11ft high in his sun trap garden in Coppice Lane, Willenhall.

### Seeds

The 58-year-old has been using the mucky stuff on his tomatoes and cucumbers for years but decided to see how it would work on some sunflower seeds earlier this year – and the results have been very impressive indeed.

He said: "I planted the seeds in April with horse manure under them and every fortnight I add some more."

He added: "I've been watering them nearly every day but we've also had a lot of rain, which has helped them too."

A gardener in Wigan last year grew a 25ft 3ins sunflower but that was 1ft 1in short of the world record.

"It's a good example of how vital they are."

The fire was out by around 2.15am.

## England stars coach pupils

ENGLAND footballer Sophie Bradley, who was in action during the Olympic Games, was due to visit Walsall schools yesterday (Wednesday) ahead of England Women's Euro qualifier at the Banks's Stadium next Wednesday, September 19, at 5pm.

Star of Team GB, England and Lincoln Ladies, Sophie was being joined by Jess Clarke, of England and Lincoln, to coach youngsters at Alumwell Primary and Streetly Academy.

They are likely to play when England take on Croatia in Walsall.

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## NEWS

## CONTENTS

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Peter Rhodes | 4     |
| Letters      | 8     |
| Clubs        | 16    |
| Memory Lane  | 24    |
| What's on    | 29    |
| TV Listings  | 30-32 |
| Property     | 34-42 |
| Motoring     | 43-49 |
| Classified   | 50-54 |
| Sport        | 55-56 |

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# Church bid to fund new stainless steel roof

A £190,000 funding bid for a replacement roof at the oldest church in Walsall has been submitted – and has passed the first round of scrutiny.

A new roof is needed at St Matthew's Church after thieves stripped its lead and left a £400,000 repair bill. Building bosses have asked for the funds from English Heritage and the outcome is due to be announced by the end of the year.

The theft last September left rain-

water leaking through the roof.

It comes after a five-figure sum was spent to replace the roof of the church's community centre with felt following a copper theft, and another £40,000 lead theft from the main church building.

The Rev Colin Gibson said: "The funding bid has gone in and it has got passed the first round."

"We are applying to English Heritage, which has made it clear it won't fund a non-metal solution.

The roof needs to be replaced with stainless steel.

"We need to make the roof watertight. During the summer, rain was still getting in and damaging the interior."

## Unsafe

"We had to close the children's chapel briefly. People cleared up the mess and removed unsafe plaster."

It is the second time the church has submitted a funding bid to

English Heritage after being turned down for a grant.

The church, which dates back to the 1100s, is also planning a £1 million restoration project. Repairs are needed on crumbling plaster work, iron-framed windows, the balcony and staircase.

Other improvements could include the removal of raised flooring, new chairs and toilets with baby changing facilities.

# Drug farm gardener 'exploited'

POLICE found a drugs factory capable of producing £33,000 worth of cannabis a year when they raided a house in Walsall.

They also discovered Robert Jednorog, who had been cultivating the 40 plants growing at the property in Bassett Street. The Polish-born, 26-year-old from Pearse close, Dudley, had been in the country since 2004. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Prosecutor Andrew Molloy said the drug crop was worth up to £11,000 in street sales and could have generated an annual yield of £33,000.

Jednorog had been receiving free accommodation in return for working as a 'gardener' on the drug farm.

He was vulnerable after spending a short time in a mental hospital, said Peter Arnold, defending.

Mr Arnold added: "He required money, was in a fragile state and did what was asked of him. He was exploited."

Jednorog had spent 108 days in custody. He admitted cultivating cannabis and was given a 12-month sentence suspended for two years with 200 hours unpaid work.

# Court tags trader in fake goods

AN ILLEGAL trader was caught with more than 3,000 fake DVDs, handbags and purses in Walsall.

Police swooped after Carl Smith was found with counterfeit goods at the Bescot Retail Park last December.

He admitted selling DVDs with a fake trademark and received a community order with a 16-week curfew, an electronic tag and to pay £650 costs at Walsall Magistrates Court.

Walsall Council trading standards bosses are working alongside police to crack down on dealers in fake goods.

Councillor Zahid Ali, portfolio holder for public protection, said: "We will not allow the good reputation of Walsall to become tarnished by such criminal activity."

## Coffee at station

WILLENHALL fire station is holding a coffee morning for charity on Friday, September 28.

It will take place at the Clarkes Lane station from 10am to 12.

# Debenhams revealing plans for big revamp

A NEW health and beauty hall along with a revamped restaurant will be created at Debenhams in Walsall as part of a multi-million pound upgrade of the Old Square Shopping Centre.

The work at the department store forms part of the £13 million transformation of the centre. Bosses have outlined

their plans and promised shoppers would benefit from improved services and a better choice.

The revamp also includes new fitting rooms and toilets.

The modernisation is part of the second phase of a rolling programme to transform the Old Square. A new Primark and Co-op are being built in the first stage.

Debenhams spokeswoman Kate Thomas outlined the plans and said work is expected to take place in 2014.

"The Walsall store modernisation is on the list for 2014 and exact timings are to be confirmed," she said.

## Restaurant

"The main areas we're focusing on will be around improved product offer and brands to increase choice, a new health and beauty hall, restaurant refurbishment and improved services such as toilets, fitting rooms etc."

It is believed the Walsall project will be the biggest transformation since Debenhams opened in the town 30 years ago.

Debenhams is also to launch a new store at the former TJ Hughes premises in the Three Spires Shopping Centre, Lichfield, creating 60 jobs.

Bosses at Old Square Shopping Centre have said they want to "increase the prominence of Debenhams", which is considered an anchor tenant.

Work to create the new Primark and Co-op store, creating 160 jobs, is now due to start in 2013.

# Golfers help cancer charity



Cancer survivors Jenny Bateman, Anne Earp and Sally Cooper joined Nick Plimmer from PVCU Direct at the PVCU Direct charity golf event held in Bloxwich

A WINDOW company from Bloxwich has raised more than £5,000 in aid of Walsall Breast Cancer Self-Help Group at a charity golfing event.

This is the fifth year that PVCU Direct has held the event at Bloxwich Golf Course and so far overall the company has managed to raise a massive £27,000 for the group. There were 152 players on the day to enjoy a full game, a raffle and auction.

Having had family members affected by

breast cancer, Nick Plimmer, sales director at PVCU Direct, decided to set up this event to help such a dedicated group of volunteers.

He said: "With the way things are we didn't expect to raise much money this year, so we were really happy when we beat last year's total."

Jo Stackhouse, charity co-ordinator and chairman for the breast cancer group said: "It is wonderful what they do, and we couldn't keep going without them."

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## New suite will help children

A NEW facility which will be used by social services, police and health agencies to help protect vulnerable children has opened in Walsall.

The Starfish Suite at the Manor Hospital and has been designed to examine children at risk in a safe and secure environment.

It comes after Walsall Council's care and safeguarding of vulnerable children and its capacity to improve were branded as "inadequate" in a damning Ofsted report.

The opening of the suite has been a long-term aim for Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, which earmarked space for the facility in the hospital's £170 million revamp.

Consultant paediatrician Dr Vidya Rao said: "The Starfish Suite is a much-needed facility that provides a safe and welcoming place for children at risk to be examined. It will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to all agencies in the borough and will foster the joint working that is so vital for safeguarding children."

The name of the suite came from the story of a little boy picking up stranded starfish on the beach and throwing them back into the sea.

## Dining hall extension bid

A FOOD hall at a school in Walsall will be extended, under plans submitted to Walsall Council.

The proposal is for Shire Oak Academy in Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood. It is hoped the single-storey extension will ease congestion at meal times in the main food hall.

The 314 sq ft extension would be connected to the existing school block.

A statement, submitted with plans, says there is no current plans to increase staffing levels in connection with the application.

The extension will be constructed in material to match the existing building in colour, texture and design.

## Snake run over

A SNAKE that was found in a Darlaston street has died.

The four-and-a-half foot long reptile was found at the junction of Rough Hay Road and Willenhall Street on the evening of Tuesday, September 4. It is believed the snake had been run over by a car.

## Board set to oversee care improvements

THE formation of an independent board to oversee improvements in children's services in Walsall was set to be approved by council chiefs yesterday (Wednesday).

The Improvement Board will be asked to report back to council bosses every quarter on progress. It comes after an Ofsted inspection branded the authority's care and safeguarding of vulnerable children as "inadequate".

The department's capacity to improve

was also rated as inadequate in the damning report.

Walsall Council's cabinet were due yesterday to discuss the matter for the first time since the problems came to light in July.

A report by Paul Sheehan, chief executive of the council, says: "The main findings of the Ofsted report are very concerning and disappointing. Out of a total of 22 judgment areas, eight areas of practice were found to be inadequate."

The department's capacity to improve

"The Department for Education has indicated that the council will now receive an improvement notice which will outline key actions and timescales, as well as the expectation that an improvement board will be established with an independent chairman."

"Immediate steps have been taken to put this in place together with improvements in front line practice and management decision-making."

Some of the improvements have been

given a three-month deadline and some six months.

Walsall Council's cabinet is being asked to note the findings of the Ofsted report, approve the establishment of an improvement board "to drive the rapid progress required through the improvement plan" and receive quarterly updates.

A new boss has been brought in to run children's services. Rose Collinson took over from Pauline Pilkington.

## NEWS

### in brief

#### RSPCA cattery is at its busiest yet

THE RSPCA in Walsall is "overflowing" with cats, volunteers have revealed.

The charity, which uses Common Farm De-Lux Boarding Cattery in Staffordshire to look after animals, currently has more than 35 cats and kittens in its care.

It is the highest number of cats the branch has ever had to look after at one time.

Volunteer Becky Weeks said: "Cats and kittens are constantly being found abandoned in cardboard boxes and tied in carrier bags, dumped in bins and skips locally."

#### Girls robbed by man with a knife

TWO teenaged girls were robbed at knifepoint, police have revealed.

The 16-year-olds were on Wilderness Lane, Great Barr, when a man came up behind them and threatened one with a knife. One of the girl's threw her iPod at him and they both ran to safety.

The robbery happened on August 8 just after 7pm but details have only been released this week. Contact detectives on 101.

#### Sixteen tonnes of rubbish removed

A CRACKDOWN on fly tipping in Walsall recovered more than 16 tonnes of rubbish.

Organised by Environmental Crime Enforcement Officers at Walsall Council, "Skip Day" was supported by partners including Streetpride and Walsall Housing Group. They visited hotspots in the north of the borough, including Stag Crescent, Roebuck Road, Hunter Crescent.

#### Arsonists blamed for two fires in a day

SUSPECTED arsonists started a fire in a derelict factory unit in Willenhall.

Rubbish was set alight inside the former EW Box in Spring Lane, Willenhall, at 6.20pm last Friday.

Firefighters were also called when arsonists caused damage to a building at J Nixon and Co in Waterglade Road, Willenhall, at 2am last Friday.

#### Road to be closed

RESURFACING work will force the closure of a road in Aldridge for five days.

Weston Crescent will be closed from September 17 to 21, between 8am and 5pm. Work is being carried out by Tarmac on behalf of Walsall Council.

# Teen forced to drive with machete at face

A TEENAGER was kidnapped and forced to drive a gang of four across the region with a machete held to his face before they attacked another man on Christmas Day, a court heard.

The 17-year-old was kidnapped by the thugs from near Walsall bus station, where he had been waiting in his saloon car. He was with friends in the car waiting for another person when the gang struck at 1.30am.

The passengers were ordered out by Luke Jenkins, 22, who had a machete, Mr Oliver Woolhouse, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Jenkins then climbed in the vehicle followed by David Hughes, 26, 19-year-old Matthew Sutton and Lee Ratcliffe, aged 27.

Mr Woolhouse revealed: "The young driver made the journey with the machete held close to his face."

### Confronted

They failed to get an answer from a house in Hordern Road, Whitmore Reans, when Jonathan Lewis and a friend stopped in their car to deliver a gift for 10 years.

Sutton, of Bath Street, Caldmore, and Hughes, of no fixed address, both further admitted wounding and were each locked up for five-and-a-half years.

Mr Woolhouse said: "He was confronted by Jenkins who was swinging the machete about and demanding a parcel that he claimed to be expecting. Mr Lewis

## Revamp for shop parade

THE OWNER of a rundown shopping parade in Walsall, which is being revamped, said he wants to help make his town look nice.

Around £25,000 has been set aside for the revamp of Park Street Arcade, used by thousands of people every week.

Owner Pete Khosla said: "We want to enhance the arcade. I have got an interest in Walsall and I want my town to look nice. We want to repaint and decorate. There is a programme in place to revamp it."

Discussions are now taking place with Walsall Council over implementing the scheme. Shops in the arcade include a newsagent, bakers and amusements. It is used by an estimated 100,000 people a week.

## Call for Ellie stamps in home town



One of the special edition Ellie Simmonds gold medal stamps which is in high demand at post offices

SHE'S the golden girl of the Paralympics with two stamps printed in her honour but residents in Ellie Simmonds' home town have been unable to get their hands on any of them.

Despite issuing the pair after the 17-year-old swimmer's record-breaking gold medal achievements, Royal Mail failed to stock any of the stamps at the post office in Aldridge where fans, friends and relatives have been trying to buy them.

Now bosses have insisted the special stamps are on their way to the branch in High Street after customers complained.

The stamps were issued last week after Ellie stormed to victory in the 200m individual medley and the 400m freestyle.

She also picked up a bronze in the 50m freestyle and has had a postbox painted gold in her honour in Aldridge.

### Win

Royal Mail bosses said the stamps could be bought at Walsall Wood post office, almost two miles away, but that they would be rolled out to her home town post office soon.

Adrian Booth, a spokesman for Royal Mail, said: "There were 500 post offices that volunteered to be the

offices that would be on the frontline for these stamps.

"Obviously, we did not know which athletes were going to win and where they would come from."

"We hope the stamps would be rolled out to Aldridge so people can get them there."

It comes after some shoppers pointed out they could not get the stamps in Aldridge, where Ellie grew up before moving to Swansea to carry on her training.

Aldridge resident Dave Rock said:

"I tried to buy a stamp here but couldn't—then visited another post office in Hagley where they had loads of them."

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



SO FAREWELL, Max Bygraves. He was a link with that curious post-war age of innocence when a pop star could make a record about a pink toothbrush and a blue toothbrush, and the rest of us would rush out to buy it. How times change.

□□□□□□□

HOWEVER hard we try, we cannot avoid looking at paralympic athletes in a particular way. With an able-bodied star, we first look at the face and then the whole body. As the paralympic athletes line up, our eyes wander over each limb in turn until we see the disability. It is human nature to be so inquisitive but the full body-scan we reserve for disabled athletes must irritate them intensely.

□□□□□□□

AND so, I guess, must being constantly referred to as brave, heroic, courageous or plucky. Most paralympians are simply hard-working and determined to make the best of a bad deal. And the disabled soldiers in the GB team will tell you, as soldiers throughout history have told us, that the real heroes are their mates who never came home.

□□□□□□□

WORST job of the Cabinet reshuffle, as the petrol bombs and rubber bullets fly yet again, is surely that of Northern Ireland Secretary, awarded to the luckless Theresa Villiers. It must be like taking over a huge, dysfunctional kindergarten.

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A READER reflects on that historic moment in 1969 when the late, great Neil Armstrong planted the American flag on the surface of the moon. He wonders whether this was the only time in history that anyone has raised the Stars and Stripes outside the United States without lots of people getting killed.

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THE big investment banks report that they are obliged to pay graduates up to £45,000 a year to lure them into an industry which has such a bad name. But why are they recruiting graduates at all? Capitalism follows a cycle of rising greed followed by collapse. In the banking game, long memories are a great asset because the more people who remember the agonies of the last crash, the better are the chances of avoiding the next one. We need a law banning investment banks from recruiting anyone under 70.

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CLEAR blue water is appearing between Barack Obama and his Republican challenger Mitt Romney. Or to be more accurate, clear golden nectar. Romney is a Mormon and a teetotaller. Obama, it was revealed this week, has his own beer brewed at a micro-brewery in the White House. Suddenly, according to the polls, the States is warming to its President. As the aptly-named pundit Harry Wallop observes this week: "If your opponent's strongest drink is mint tea, you've got Wyoming in the bag before anyone's cast a vote." Let us hope so. The idea of an American president, the most powerful man in the world, believing that real ale is the work of the Devil sets all sorts of alarm bells ringing.

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WHAT a joy it was to see the rare pine martens on The One Show (BBC1). These home-grown charmers are every bit as endearing as meerkats and do not try to sell you insurance.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes  
every Monday to Friday in  
your Express & Star**

# Council stung by losing wasp cash

CASH-STRAPPED councils have lost out on tens of thousands of pounds – including a £16,000 shortfall for Walsall – because the bad weather has reduced calls for wasp nests to be removed.

Demand for council wasp removal services has plummeted as the wet and cold summer has seen the number of complaints drop with fewer wasps breeding.

Walsall bosses are £16,000 down on revenue expected to be generated from the pest control service.

Walsall environment boss Councillor Tom Ansell, explained that treatments for ants, fleas, weevils and beetles are chargeable.

### Control

But the largest individual source of income for the pest control service

throughout the summer months is in usually treating wasp nests.

"Long hot summers mean we have sometimes topped 1,000 call-outs at £48 per call-out, or £27 for those on specified benefits," said Councillor Ansell.

"Last year, for example, was a good year for wasp nests with just under 1,000 jobs being carried out.

"This year, however, the all too

familiar long periods of terribly wet weather has seen a dramatic reduction in the number of wasp nests jobs completed.

"So far we have had 158. By this time last year we'd had 790.

Some councils including Cannock and Sandwell do not charge for the service and they had also seen a significant reduction in call outs to deal with wasp's nests.

# Jail term suspended for care home thief

## Pride in role at the Games



Walsall care worker Keith Nye is proud to have assisted as a volunteer at both the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in London this August and in the 2012 Paralympic Games.

Keith Nye, aged 47, has been one of the many Paralympic Games assistants. Mr Nye, of Penkridge, who works in health and social care for Walsall Council, was an Olympic volunteer when he drove one of the vice-presidents of the International Olympic Committee. Mr Nye has been a friend of Seb Coe since the pair ran together when studying at Loughborough University. "It was great" he said. "Seb Coe asked in 2007 whether I would be interested in working for LOCOG (London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games). I got to meet Usain Bolt track when he was warming up for 100m semi finals. He was very relaxed and laid back."

She was handed a 12-month prison sentence, suspended for 24 months, with a 12-month supervision requirement.

She was also told to do 200 hours unpaid work and pay back the full amount stolen in compensation within 28 days.



Tracey Keates – must pay back the money she stole

After hearing her fate, the Keates said: "I'm really sorry. I'm paying back the full amount."

Recorder Andrew Easteal ordered her to pay back the £4,355.40 which she withdrew from the elderly couple's accounts using a Lloyds TSB bank card and MasterCard.

The court heard she had found the cards in a room at the care home in Coalpool Lane. She stole the money in April and May this year and was dismissed from her role after the thefts emerged.

Recorder Andrew Easteal, sentencing Keates, called her behaviour "disgusting" and said it had caused "huge distress". He said: "The care home was the place they had gone because they felt they needed help and care and security. That is what you stole from them. A terminally ill woman and her elderly husband, you stole their peace of mind."

The court heard that part of the cash went towards a deposit on a house.

Mr Easteal, sentencing Keates, told her: "You have emerged from two violent relationships. Other people manage far worse and don't resort to the sort of disgusting behaviour you did."

## Keen eye of a witness put burglar behind bars

A BURGLAR who committed a string of offences across Walsall and Warwickshire has been jailed.

Luke McDonnell, aged 26 from Hudson Road, Rugby, pleaded guilty to breaking into three properties in the Walsall area in July.

McDonnell admitted breaking into an address on Holtshill Lane, Walsall, on July 23 where he stole a laptop and other items.

### Description

He was arrested the same day when a police officer spotted him in Digbeth after a witness was able to supply a description of the offender.

He later admitted to another burglary on Rugeley Avenue, New Invention, which happened on July 27 and an attempted burglary at Sutton Road, Walsall, on July 24. McDonnell also admitted to two burglaries in Warwickshire. He was sentenced to 21 months at Rugby Crown Court.

Pc Kerrie Atkinson, from Walsall CID, said: "We would like to take this opportunity to thank the public for their information."

"The description that was given was so good that an officer on routine patrol was able to recognise a man that fitted the description and we were able to take immediate action."

## College gets A star rating

HUNDREDS of students at a Walsall college have given it an A\* rating in a new learner survey.

More than 700 people who studied at Walsall Adult and Community College in the past academic year have taken part in the survey.

Students were asked to rate the college's teaching, learning, assessment methods, course organisation and general facilities.

The survey showed 96.3 per cent of learners rated the college's teaching methods as good or outstanding and 98.4 per cent said they were satisfied or extremely satisfied with their overall learning experience.

## New weekly walk

A NEW weekly walk is being launched from a community centre in Bloxwich every Wednesday. It will set off from the Stan Ball Centre in Abbotts Street, and will last for 30 minutes. Walkers should meet at 9am.

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## Concern at lack of new homes in Darlaston

Just 30 new homes have been built in the past year in Darlaston – despite planning permission being in place for more than 1,000.

A councillor in Darlaston South hit out at the lack of new homes in the area, despite swathes of land being derelict. Council bosses said the problem was a national one.

Seventeen new homes were completed in Darlaston South in the past financial year. A further 13 were completed in the neighbouring Bentley and Darlaston North ward.

Across the borough, 539 new homes were built, despite planning permission existing for 3,632.

Planning permission exists for 1,026 homes in Darlaston that have not yet been started.

Councillor Doug James, representative for Darlaston South, said: "Urgent investment and delivery is needed to provide homes for young families, local people and bring neglected brownfield sites back into production."

He claimed waiting lists for new homes were growing. "It's a particular problem in Darlaston South," he added.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This is a major national issue, not just a Walsall one."

## Green light for shops revamp

IMPROVEMENTS to refurbish and renovate shop fronts in Willenhall town centre have been backed by council chiefs.

Moves to carry out work, in Stafford Street, were approved by Walsall Council planning bosses under delegated powers.

The application said: "The buildings in question are in need of renovation and would benefit greatly from replacement of the metal shopfront as well as remedial works to the other shopfronts, windows and roofspace."

"The area generally would benefit from the changes now proposed, which would improve the appearance and ensure these buildings remain sound for the foreseeable future."

It added: "The buildings have been in retail use for many years and are currently a Café, a Nail Bar and a Childrens Centre."

# More than £90,000 bonus payments to officers

BONUSES totalling more than £90,000 were paid to some of the highest-earning senior officers at Walsall Council in the past two years.

Nine employees, some of whom already earn six-figure salaries, shared the performance-related cash pot between them.

Council chiefs revealed performance-related bonuses have been scrapped for the new financial year due to the economic

climate. Walsall Council has over the past few years had to make savings of £65 million. However, a total of £90,466 of taxpayer's money has been paid out in bonuses in the past two years, with £54,381 in 2011/12 and £36,085 in 2010/11.

### Executive

Among those to receive bonuses was chief executive Paul Sheehan who pocketed a

£10,860 bonus last year and £11,201 the year before. This came on top of a salary of £189,533.

Finance boss Councillor Chris Towe said: "These payments were made in the past when very specific targets were met."

"That said, in the era of austerity, we abolished the PERP scheme last year resulting in a cut in pay for the council's most senior staff from this year."

The bonus payments were revealed in Walsall Council's summary of accounts for 2011 to 2012, which are available for the public to view.

Councillor Pete Smith, of the Democratic Labour Party, welcomed the stopping of bonus payments.

He said: "The senior officers of Walsall Council receive very generous salaries without bonuses on top."

# Working group look at future of markets

A REVIEW of markets is being carried out in Walsall in a bid to boost trade as councillors want to increase the number of visitors to pitches in Willenhall and Bloxwich.

They will also look at the main Walsall town centre market, which will need to find a permanent new home in the coming years. A designated working group has been set up to review the issues.

## TV star returns to theatre where his career began

IT IS 27 years since Walsall actor Don Gilet, who played EastEnders villain Lucas Johnson, appeared on stage at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton.

It was one of his first paid performances before he left his Black Country home for London to follow his dreams of becoming an actor.

Next month he will return to the Grand for the first time since the mid-1980s to star in the comedy Bouncers. And the 44-year-old admitted he was looking forward to returning to the area and was expecting lots of family members to turn up and see him in the show.

"All my family are coming, from my father to all my cousins," he said. "They all still live in the area. The last time I performed at the Grand was back in 1985 in a play called Love Me Love Me Locks. It feels such a long time ago. It was one of my first paid jobs. I've not been back since."

Gilet is probably best known for playing twisted killer Lucas Johnson in TV soap EastEnders, a role he said was a joy to play.



Grand return - Don Gilet

"I loved playing Lucas. I had a great time on EastEnders. I often get recognised as Lucas on the street and in shops. People will joke with me and say things like 'you better serve him, or he will get you'. It still happens now, two years after leaving the show."

Gilet also starred in BBC One police drama 55 Degrees North as Detective Sergeant Nicky Cole.

Gilet grew up in Calderwood. He left at the age of 19 to go to Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in North London.

### Profitable

"One of the objectives is to make the markets a lot more profitable."

Figures showed more than £287,000 was generated from council-run markets in the last financial year, largely due to the success of Walsall market.

Walsall market created an income of £313,745 and Bloxwich £8,211, which covered the £34,231 loss at Willenhall.

Statistics released this summer showed the average take up of stalls at Walsall is 90 per cent before dropping to 59 on Wednesdays.

In Willenhall on a Wednesday it averages 86 per cent, 75 on a Friday and drops on a Saturday to 69 per cent. In Bloxwich, the most popular day is Friday with 80 per cent of stalls on average filled.

More than 100 people turned out to meet the former striker, raising more than £500 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

## Saddlers legend drops in



Former player and manager Alan Buckley with Tony Waterfield, Stephen Hanson, Bob Dyal and Toni Waterfield and members of the independent supporters' club

SADDLERS legend Alan Buckley dropped into a Walsall town centre pub to meet and greet members of a new supporters club.

The Independent Saddlers Club, based at the Cuckoo and Bell Pub in Stafford Street, was set up in February and already has 250 members.

Former Walsall FC manager and player Mr Buckley spent the evening chatting to more than 100 fans who turned up. He also

posed for pictures and spoke about his career.

The Independent Saddlers Club has been set up by Bob Dyal. Pub landlord Steve Hanson, aged 56, said: "The event was brilliant, lots of people came and Alan Buckley was just great."

More than 100 people turned out to meet the former striker, raising more than £500 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

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## NEWS in brief

### Two pairs of new semis to be built

FOUR homes are to be built in the Aldridge area under plans to develop a run down site.

The properties are earmarked for land at the junction of Bosty Lane and Daw End Lane.

The proposals for two pairs of semi-detached properties were lodged with Walsall Council. The application has been agreed by planning officers under delegated powers.

### Employment law is on the agenda

AN ORGANISATION supporting community groups is hosting a workshop on employment law in Walsall next month.

Walsall Voluntary Action is running the workshop with HBC Solicitors on October 16 at the County Hotel, Birmingham Road, from 9.30am. It costs £15. Book on (01922) 619840.

### Stone memorial to be dedicated

THE ARCHDEACON of Walsall will dedicate a new war memorial at a Great Barr church after the old memorial at St Margaret's was a target for metal thieves. A stone memorial at the Chapel Lane church will be dedicated by the Venerable Christopher Sims on Saturday at 2pm.

### Apple bobbing at Forest's fun day

A FUN day including apple bobbing, a bouncy castle and face painting will be held in Walsall to raise money for Heart Care at the Forest Arts Centre, Hawbush Road, Leamore, on Sunday from 11am.

Admission is free.

### Focus on fashion from Austen era

JANE Austen fans can learn about Georgian period fashion at Walsall Museum, Lichfield Street, today (Thursday) at a talk by Sheila Shreever from 1.30pm. To book call (01922) 653116.

### Centre screens War Horse epic

STEVEN Spielberg film War Horse will be shown at Leamore's Forest Arts Centre tomorrow (Friday) at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £2 and £1 (concessions) on the door.

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## NEWS

### Robbers target stores with female staff

ARMED robbers are watching convenience stores and raiding those where women staff are working alone and into the night, say police.

Criminals struck 12 times last month in the Black Country, stealing tens of thousands of pounds of goods, including cigarettes, after bursting into stores across Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell, armed with weapons including axes.

The surge in tobacco prices has created a lucrative market for thieves. Many of the stolen packets will be sold throughout the Black Country.

#### Identifying

West Midlands Police spokesman Lee Page said: "We are working on identifying the groups involved and it is fair to say we are following a number of strong lines of inquiry."

"It is clear that cigarettes are being taken somewhere to be sold and we'd be keen to hear from anyone who may know where they are being sold."

He added: "It looks like these groups are looking at stores that have got females working alone or two women working together."

During August, there were five raids in Sandwell, three in Dudley and one each in Wolverhampton and Walsall.

## Boss promising a sensible approach to bus lane fines

### Veterans raise a glass to Joe



Joe Davies, front right, at Short Heath Royal British Legion with Jack Baker and other veterans to celebrate his 90th birthday

A WAR veteran who went from police officer to travelling showman has celebrated his 90th birthday.

Joe Davies was honoured by fellow members of the Parachute Regimental Association at a surprise party where he was made a life vice president of the group. The great-grandfather was honoured as more than 20 members of the Wolverhampton and district branch joined in celebration at the Royal British Legion Club in Short Heath.

Mr Davies served with the Royal Army Service Corps between 1942-46 and later joined West Midlands Police where he became a superintendent. During his time with the force he was based across Wolverhampton, Brierley Hill and Birmingham. He later became known as a travelling showman playing his Lady Wulfruna organ.

Mr Davies, of Compton, said "I get a great deal of pleasure out of meeting my old comrades. It is good to reminisce with them."

#### Removed

Blakenall councillor Pete Smith said the bus lane should be removed entirely for safety reasons.

"It is a hazard, there are definitely problems as you approach the junction," he said.

Transport boss councillor Tom Ansell said: "There aren't any plans to widen this stretch of road. If drivers have no choice but to use the bus lane then they will not be fined. If they use the lane for convenience, then yes, they can expect to be charged."

"It goes without saying that a little common sense will prevail with issues such as this."

A mobile camera is due to come into force next month. Those caught on camera will be issued with a £60 fine, which will be halved if paid within 14 days. Those who fail to pay within 56 days will see the bill rise to £90.

Mr Davies served with the Royal

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## NEWS

# School transformation has got the wow factor



Principal Bernard Dickenson at the revamped Shelfield Academy

## Bike ride to boost anti-cancer fund

A BUSINESSMAN has completed a charity bike ride and raised thousands of pounds in the fight against prostate cancer.

Tim Windsor, head of business development at Birmingham-based consultancy Curium Solutions, rode from London to Paris, covering more than 300 miles in aid of his father Stewart, who was diagnosed with prostate cancer last year.

The Willenhall resident raised just under £3,000 for Everyman, a national prostate and testicular campaign run by the Institute of Cancer Research.

Mr Windsor said: "I only got a bike last November before than I hadn't ridden one for 12 years but I prepared myself as best as possible. I stopped smoking."

More than 100 people took part in the challenge including Mr Windsor's friend Matthew Beech, aged 41 from Whitmore Reans.

Together the pair arrived in Paris in 39-degree heat to rounds of applause from crowds.

To donate to Mr Windsor's fundraising total visit [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/windsorbee](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/windsorbee)

THE SECOND phase of a multi-million pound transformation of a Walsall secondary school has been completed as the full scheme enters the final stage.

The £23 million redevelopment of Shelfield Academy is creating modern 21st century facilities at the site in Broad Way.

The second phase which includes ICT, theatre, music and drama departments has been going on for the last nine months and was finished over the summer ahead of the new school year.

### Language

The third phase with new business and modern languages blocks is due for completion within six weeks so it will be ready after half-term.

Old buildings will be demolished creating parking and play facilities.

Principal Bernard Dickenson said they were delighted with the new-look school.

"The youngsters have come in and gone 'wow, it is fantastic and they absolutely love it,' he said.

"It provides them with state-of-the-art facilities."

A COOKBOOK full of recipes and reflections from a lifetime spent preparing food for loved ones is on sale in aid of St Giles Walsall Hospice.

Linda Smith compiled the collection of favourite dishes, including several from her friends, after retiring from teaching at Brownhills School. She died this year.

### Sweet

The recipes range from pickles to sweet pie pastry, fudge and fondue.

The cookbook is available to order online for £5 plus postage from the website at: [lindasmithcharitycookbook.wordpress.com](http://lindasmithcharitycookbook.wordpress.com)

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## NEWS

# Return of sports fields worth heavy lorry traffic

## £2.7m training centre opens



Richard Jolly (The Vine Trust), Ashley Critchlow (Bespoke), Kevin Davies (CEO of The Vine Trust), Simon Ganley (MD of Bespoke), Dominic Goold (Goold Estates), Tom McGuinness (Bespoke) and Mark Watkins (St Modwen) outside the new Goldmine centre in Walsall

GOLDMINE, a state-of-the-art £2.7 million youth training centre in Walsall town centre that is set to house the new Walsall Studio School, has been completed.

Developers St Modwen and Goold Estates have handed over the 20,000 sq ft building in Lower Hall Lane to operators The Vine Trust.

It was constructed by Bespoke Construction Services.

The impressive building boasts training rooms, a library, offices and multipurpose space for public performances that will initially be used

by the Trust to provide training, learning, advice and guidance to local young people.

### Skills

The Walsall Studio School is set to open in 2013, providing 14-19 year olds with the opportunity to study GCSEs, A Levels and vocational projects while boosting their skills with paid weekly work placements.

Goldmine forms part of St. Modwen and Goold Estates' £90 million St. Matthew's Quarter regeneration scheme.

LEISURE chiefs insist that short-term inconvenience caused by work to re-open contaminated playing fields in Walsall will be worthwhile in the long run.

The six-week scheme to bring Broadway West Playing Fields back into use for ball games is being carried out this month.

Ball games have been banned for almost a decade after dangerous metals were found in soil samples but a £400,000 project to bring them back into use has been agreed.

This includes the installation of an engineering cap and new top soil.

Residents and motorists have been warned more than 20 lorries a day are due to arrive at the site.

### Valuable

But leisure chief councillor Anthony Harris said: "While there are impacts associated with any large scale construction activity it is felt that the benefits of returning this valuable sports area back into formal use is well worth the possibility of some short term inconvenience."

"The council is investing a lot of time and effort on this project and will continue to liaise with residents and interested parties on how best to use this asset in the future."

Despite the work, sports will still not be able to take place on the site until next year.

## Prompt end to works is costing council dear

THE amount of extra income from financial penalties imposed on utility companies for over-running roadworks in Walsall is set to be more than £130,000 less than expected.

Walsall Council can claim cash where schemes are unreasonably prolonged without informing the highway authority. Figures reveal that the amount, under section 74, is due to be £138,000 lower than anticipated this summer.

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## NEWS

Finishing touches at new rugby clubhouse

THE finishing touches are being made to a new £350,000 clubhouse at an arson-hit rugby club in Walsall.

Work on the new structure at Aldridge Rugby Club is on track to finish this month and a grand opening is being planned.

The club secured £120,000 funding from two sports bodies towards the project.

The new-look facility will have changing rooms, a meeting room, dining space, showers, toilets and a bar.

It will also allow the club to introduce more teams and comes after a suspected arson attack at the Bourne Vale site in 2009.

Planning permission was granted last year for the scheme and the club has had £70,000 of funding from the Rugby Football Union and £50,000 from Sport England.

# Council will help waste firm move to protect jobs

FORMAL notices regarding enforcement action have been served on a waste company that came under fire after claims dust from the site was blowing on to gravestones at a Darlaston cemetery.

AB Waste was criticised by people complaining that dust was settling on headstones at James Bridge Cemetery.

It emerged that the Cemetery Road firm had extended operations onto the site of the former Railway Inn, in Kendricks Road, and the Junction Works site, off Cemetery Road.

But neither site has the relevant planning permission for the range of their current uses.

Walsall Council's deputy leader Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "We're working with the company to help them relocate to a more suitable site to maintain jobs in the borough."

### Monitored

"Formal notices have been served on the company and the next step will be to serve the enforcement notices on all relevant parties requiring cessation of operations if necessary."

"The Cemetery Road site is still operating and conditions there are being monitored by council officers."

Councillor Andrew added: "It's our duty to honour the promise we made to residents who asked us to intervene but it's worth remembering this is a legal process that takes time. But we are now moving well along that process."

An enforcement notice gives the firm six months to cease work on the Junction Works site and three months to cease work on the former pub site.

The authority stated the reason for taking enforcement action was because the use of the land was harmful to the amenity of the area through appearance, noise, traffic and dust spreading to the cemetery.

There are no plans to take

Gallery is a key part of the future vision for town centre

REOPENING Walsall New Art Gallery on Sundays will help the "renaissance" of the town, says the council's leisure chief.

The £21 million building will extend its hours from September 30.

The aim is to draw in more visitors and boost the gallery's bid to host the prestigious Turner Prize art competition.

The town is undergoing major regeneration work with a hotel opening at the nearby town front soon.

It also emerged that a new leisure and shopping complex is being lined up at land near to Tesco.

Walsall Council want the modern gallery to remain a centrepiece of the town.

### Economic

The borough's leisure chief councillor Anthony Harris said: "Walsall's renaissance is continuing and restoring Sunday opening at the gallery will support the Coalition's vision for providing sustained economic development and growth."

There are no plans to take on additional staff at the iconic building. However, it is expected to cost £15,000 up to the end of the financial year in March to re-open the gallery, which employs 30 staff, on Sundays.

## Danger of 'cowboy' gas fitters being highlighted

A HOUSING association in Walsall is highlighting the dangers of employing 'cowboy' gas fitters.

Caldmoreaccord Housing Association representatives are visiting homes in Vicarage Place, Sister Dora Gardens, Pleck Road, Hatherton Street, Buckle Close and Lower North Street. The social landlord will raise awareness of the dangers of employing unqualified gas fitters. It will also promote its free annual gas safety checks and hand out free carbon monoxide monitors.

Jim Williams, from Caldmoreaccord, said: "Employing unqualified gas fitters, who aren't Gas Safe registered, to carry out work in their homes is not only dangerous but can also breach their tenancy agreement if they rent a home with us."

## NEWS

# Students stay closer to home because of costs

## Paralympic torch visit



Saddlers manager Dean Smith with the Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall Dennis and Kathleen Anson with Sainsbury's representative Dave Roach and the Paralympic Torch in Walsall

SHOPPERS were given the chance to see the Paralympic torch in Walsall as part of its tour.

Walsall FC manager Dean Smith and Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall Dennis and Kathleen Anson got a

A-LEVEL pupils across the Black Country who would normally be expected to go to top ranking universities further afield are choosing to stay closer to home because of the hike in tuition fees, according to education bosses.

Many pupils who gained their results this summer are choosing to commute and live at home, go to cheaper universities or have decided not to go to university at all.

Estimates reveal that students could end up leaving university with a student debt of around £40,000.

Helen Keenan, from Brownhills School in Walsall, said she has seen more pupils choose to go to university closer to home.

She explained: "We actually have more pupils going to university this year but the way they are choosing a university has changed.

"Pupils are looking at the financial consequences of the university they choose."

Pank Patel, headteacher at Wednesbury's Wood Green Academy, said he had seen a big difference this year.

"Some pupils I would normally have expected to go off to red brick universities are choosing to stay local, or go to universities which have lower fees," he said. "Others I would have previously expected to go to university are deciding to go straight into work."

Claire Evans, headteacher of Wednesfield High School in Wolverhampton, said she had not seen a drop in the number of university applications. But she had noticed some students who would have usually chosen to live in digs in Birmingham while attending the city's universities were instead choosing to stay at home.

### Murder mystery night

A MURDER mystery evening will be held at the Leather Museum, in Walsall town centre, on Friday, September 21. Book places on (01922) 721153.

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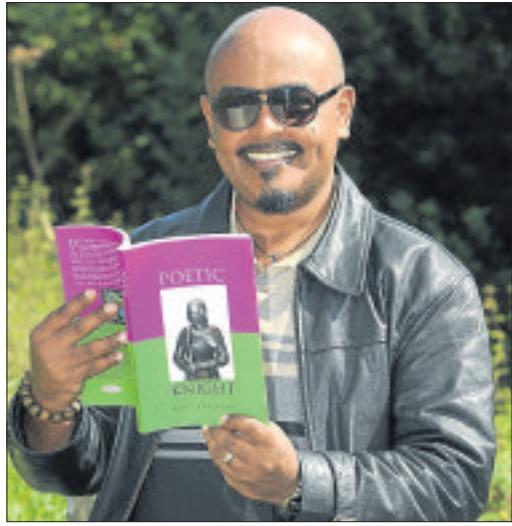
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## NEWS

# £1 taxi fares failing to attract customers

**Nat has a way with words**



Walsall wordsmith Nat Berhanu with his book of poems, Poetic Knight

A POET from Walsall is celebrating after having his first book published.

Nat Berhanu, aged 44, of Birchills, wrote the 150 poems which feature in his book, Poetic Knight, over a period of six years.

The NHS Direct advisor said: "I started writing the poems down on pieces of paper in 2006 and eventually I started putting them together in one book. There are poems on lots of different things including war, faith,

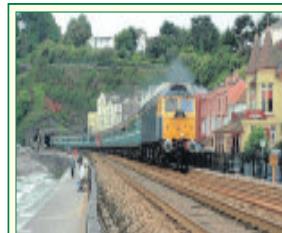
my favourite football team Arsenal, the Queen and the landscape of this country." Poetic Knight is available to buy from Amazon and selected stores

and is priced at £13.99 or £3.99 as an e-book.

## Shropshire ramble

THE Walsall group of the Ramblers will be heading to the Shropshire hills for a circular moderate walk in the Craven Arms area on Sunday.

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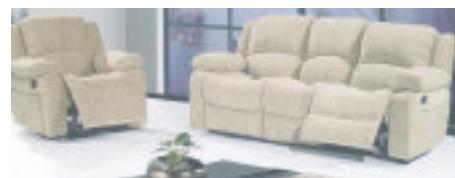
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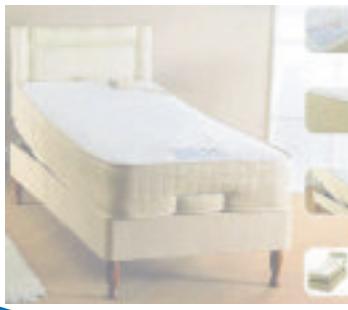


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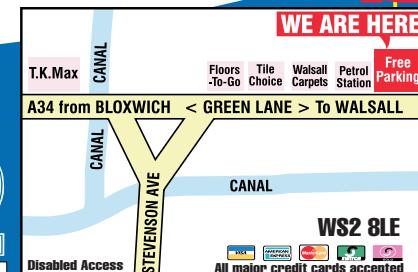
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## CLUB NEWS

Members  
told about  
Troop Aid

BLACKHEATH  
"M"  
TOWNSWOMEN

CHAIRMAN Doreen Armstrong opened the meeting. She welcomed all members present and the speaker for the day, Mrs A Sutton.

Reports were given by treasurer, Beryl Hartley, outings co-ordinator Brenda Ellsmore and press secretary Iris Harris.

It was announced that guild members would be taking part in a sponsored walk in aid of the Princess Royal Trust for Caring.

The monthly raffle was held by Heather Greenland and three ladies received prizes of hand towels.

At the end of guild business, the chairman introduced the speaker, whose talk was entitled "Troop Aid". It was founded in 2006 by three ex-servicemen, one of whom was Mrs Sutton's husband. The object is to supply basic essentials to military casualties, returning from overseas. Grab bags containing things like toiletries, writing paper and envelopes, underwear and socks are sent to field hospitals abroad and at home including the Queen Elizabeth in Birmingham.

Ladies were very moved by the talk and were pleased to help by purchasing objects on sale. A vote of thanks was given by Iris Harris and a cheque was presented.

The next meeting will be held at 10.30am on September 26 at the Moose Hall, Beeches Road, Blackheath.

# Guests' address both uplifting and graphic



Margaret and Eugene Schellenberg of the Ifakara Bakery were the guest speakers

ONE visitor was welcomed to the August meeting at Kingswinford Community Centre.

After the reading and signing of the minutes, Enid Fennell read the Federation report in full. The various groups reported on their doings. The luncheon club venues from September until January 2013 were distributed. The Christmas luncheon, by popular request will be at Hagley Golf and Country Club.

Josie Smith was thanked for her floral

## KINGSWINFORD TWG

arrangements. Speakers were Margaret and Eugene Schellenberg who gave graphic and uplifting description of the formation of the Ifakara bakery in Tanzania.

A collection was taken to aid the continuation of this splendid project and Sue Cotterell gave thanks.

Raffle winners were Barbara White, Josie Smith and Sandra Gray.

## Air Ambulance talk topic

### QUARRY BANK E TWG

THE chairman welcomed 24 members to the August meeting.

The reading and signing of the previous meeting was followed by the financial report. Mrs Raybould was present at the recent federation meeting and gave information about it. There was no correspondence.

The social secretary gave information about the visit

ford, his topic "The Midlands Air Ambulance".

This is the 21st year that the Air Ambulance has been operational and every time the helicopter takes to the air it costs £2,500 and that is funded completely by voluntary contributions.

The next guild meeting will be on September 18 with a talk about being a TV extra.



# Annual General Meeting

NHS Walsall would like to invite you to attend the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Thursday 27 September 2012 at Blakenall Village Centre, Thames Road, Blakenall, Walsall WS3 1LZ.

Please join us from 3.00 pm for some light refreshments and a chance to put forward any questions you might have before the meeting begins at 3.30 pm.

If you would like any further information please call 01922 618388.



## Planners explain car wash support

THE opening of a car wash on the site of a former petrol station in Bloxwich will not cause traffic chaos, council bosses insist.

Temporary three-year permission for the hand wash and valeting service at the Field Service Station site has been backed by Walsall Council planners.

There were fears over extra traffic in Lichfield Road but the plan has received the go-ahead because it is a thriving business that is creating jobs.

## Footballer took part in 'shocking' burglary

A PROMISING footballer, who played for Walsall FC as a youth, has been jailed for his part in a terrifying burglary in which a mother and her children were threatened with a hammer.

Midfielder Shylo Thomas, aged 21, who had been a star player for Atherstone and more recently played for conference side Tamworth, was part of a balaclava-clad gang who kicked their way in to a house in Pipe Hayes, Erdington, to threaten the family in June last year.

Thomas and two accomplices smashed down the door of a bedroom where the woman and two children, aged four and six, were hiding. She was able to raise the alarm and her husband arrived to confront the gang as they fled with £1,000.

Police were able to trace the gang after he noted the registration of the gang's Audi A3 getaway car.



Footballer Shylo Thomas - jailed for role in a burglary

Police said the car was reportedly stolen a few hours later by a man who had reportedly acted as a getaway driver. Mobile phone analysis later led police to other gang members Sean Edwards and Stephen Subhan.

Thomas, of Court Lane, Erdington, received a six-year jail sentence after being

found guilty of aggravated burglary at Birmingham Crown Court.

Edwards, aged 31, of The Radleys, Sheldon, was also given six years while Cameron Fleary-Young, aged 21, of Barnesville Close, Small Heath, who acted as a getaway driver, got two years. Subhan, aged 25, from Erdington, was given five years in jail.

### Involved

Detective Constable Alan Reeves, of West Midlands Police, said afterwards: "Thomas was described as a star player with his former club. He could have had a bright future so it's inexplicable he'd throw away that potential by getting involved in what was a shocking burglary."

"Our investigation and subsequent jailing of these men has dismantled an organised crime gang that was involved with drug preparation and supply, money laundering and theft offences."

## NEWS

### NEWS in brief

#### Leap into action to help Red Cross

THE British Red Cross are looking for adventurous individuals to take part in an abseil down a famous Walsall building.

The adrenalin-fuelled charity sponsored event is to take place on October 6 at the Walsall New Art Gallery, in Gallery Square. A trained team will help with the descent.

To participate a £35 registration fee is required and £100 in sponsorship. Sign up online at [www.redcross.org.uk/eve](http://www.redcross.org.uk/eve) or contact Jackie Ord, of the Red Cross, on 02476 304200.

#### Four Seasons is garden on show

AN AWARD-WINNING garden in Walsall will open to the public later this month.

Tony and Marie Newton's Four Seasons Garden in Buchanan Road will be open to view on September 23 from 10am to 5pm. Admission is £3 for adults. Proceeds will go to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

#### Forest floating to canal near gallery

ARTWORK The Rootless Forest, a mobile forest made of real trees and soil

planted on a barge, is coming to Walsall. It will be moored on the canal near the New Art Gallery from September 20 to October 7. To find out more visit website [www.theroottlessforest.com](http://www.theroottlessforest.com)

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## Chester & Liverpool 4 Star Christmas Shopping Mini Break £69

Christmas shopping in two contrasting destinations, Chester has a beautiful old world feel while Liverpool is modern with lots of top name shops. Plus 4 star hotel with dinner and breakfast!



### Look what's included...

**Sunday:** Meet our coach this morning for the drive to Chester. The city is a lively place on a Sunday; you'll find all the shops, cosy pubs and tea rooms open. You could enjoy a cruise on the river or walk the famous Roman Walls that surround the town centre. After a good afternoon in Chester we go to our hotel.

**Monday:** Enjoy breakfast, then we board the coach to Liverpool. The coach will park up in the new Liverpool ONE shopping centre area which is right in the city centre so if you want a change from the shops, everything else is on your doorstep including; Albert Dock, here you'll find The Beatles Story and many other attractions. We leave Liverpool mid-afternoon for home.

### Mercurie Hotel, Chester ★★★★

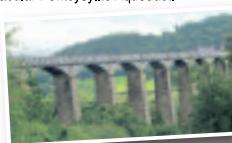
Located just outside the city, indoor pool, spa bath & sauna plus restaurant and bar and all guest rooms have full facilities. Your stay includes 3 course dinner and breakfast.

Price includes: coach, hotel, dinner & breakfast. Single Supp £10

Coach departs: Sunday 7th & 21st October £69

## Llangollen Day Trip £46

A wonderful coach trip to the market town of Llangollen with a 2 hour cruise through the Dee Valley & over the spectacular Pontcysylte Aqueduct.



### Look what's included...

You meet our coach in the morning and we go to Llangollen. When we arrive in town we'll board the 'Thomas Telford' a modern motor cruise boat which we've hired for this special trip. A purpose-built narrowboat with comfortable seats and excellent views from every table. There also a fully stocked bar and toilets. Once you're comfortably seated we set off on a two-hour trip of peaceful cruising along the stunning Dee Valley. Your skipper will keep you well informed and entertained as he gives you a live commentary, a bit of history, local knowledge and gossip! A nice home-made lunch with tea or coffee is served on board too. The trip finishes on a high, literally! As the boat crosses the spectacular pontcysylte aqueduct 126ft above the Dee valley floor. After the cruise, there's time to explore Llangollen itself before we head for home.

Price includes: coach, boat trip plus lunch as shown

Coach departs: Wednesday 3rd October £46

## Saundersfoot & Pembrokeshire 5 Day Coach Tour £196

Saundersfoot is a very picturesque fishing village on the Pembrokeshire coast, located at the foot of a wooded valley with sandy beaches and a harbour.

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**Day 2:** After breakfast - a trip to Truro - a small, bustling city that's easy to get around, with lots of character and interesting things to see.

**Day 3:** We take the coast road from Newquay past Watergate Bay to the fishing village of Padstow and later, Tintagel.

**Day 4:** Is left free so you can explore Newquay at your own pace.

**Day 5:** After a last, hearty breakfast we leave for home.

### Esplanade Newquay ★★★

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Coach departs: Monday 8th October £206

## Christmas Lunch at Alvaston Hall Coach Day Trip £37

Plus a visit to one of England's biggest garden centre's christmas displays.



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Price includes: coach, visit to Bridgemere, christmas lunch plus panto or choir

Coach departs: Tuesday 14th December £37

## NEWS

# Way cleared for huge Gigaport regeneration

BUILDINGS on a prime town centre site earmarked for multi-million pound regeneration plans in Walsall have now been completely cleared.

Demolition work has been taking place in Hatherton Street, which has included the former 100-year-old home of engineering firm Noirit and the Fitters Arms pub.

The land is earmarked as part of the £400m Gigaport scheme to create an office and business 'corridor' in the town centre.

### Jobs

Interest has been expressed in developing the land, and it is hoped that eventually around 200 jobs will be created at Gigaport.

The project has been in the pipeline for more than five years.

A high-speed fibre optic communications system designed to attract hi-tech businesses forms part of the massive regeneration scheme.

The aim is to draw in leading firms to fit alongside Walsall College and Walsall Housing Group offices.

## Fibro' support group for the Black Country

THE Black Country Fibromyalgia Support Group holds its next meeting on Thursday, September 20, offering advice and fellowship for people with the disorder characterised by chronic pain and fatigue.

The group meets at the Nine Locks Community Centre, Hill Street, Brierley Hill, on every third Thursday of the month, from 11am to 1.30pm.

They offer help with fibromyalgia and its related symptoms and conditions, free refreshments, guest speakers and social events. Carers and partners are welcome.

The group also has a helpline on 08448 872382 available on week days from 10am till 4pm.

## Academy up for award



On the shortlist – Tracey Hesson, Claire Reynolds, Jahana Choudhury and, front, Mandy Cresswell, at The Graduate Academy in Walsall

practical teaching and learning.

Joan Nimmo, head of the school for hair and beauty, said: "We are very pleased to have been shortlisted. It is credit to the hard work and commitment made by staff."

The college works in partnership with leading hairdressers Francesco Group and Hoar Cross Hall. It also works with Dermalogica and Wella.

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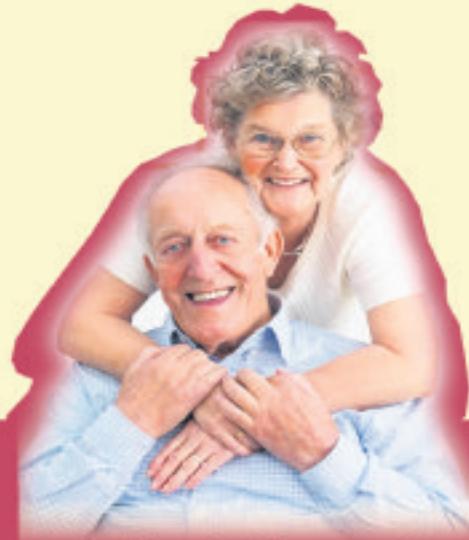
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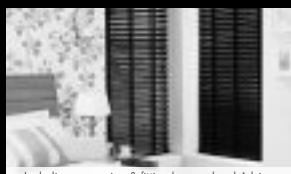
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\*Source: Newspaper Society



## NEWS

Lock into the past



Engineering Locksmith Andy Middlebrook shows how one of the hand presses works with the help of his son Cougan during the open day at the Locksmith's House

THE forgotten sights and sounds of Willenhall's Locksmith's House were brought back to life during an open day.

Scores of people visited the historic building made famous by the Hodson family.

The Grade-II listed site was opened up to the public as part of the Heritage Open Days initiative. Visitors were able to see demonstrations of traditions such as making a bar padlock and rag-rugging.

## Edwardian

There were also tours through the Edwardian building, including the draper's shop and office space. The historic museum, in New Road, closed in 2008 after Walsall Council removed a £12,000-a-year grant but was bought by the Black Country Living Museum.

Senior curator Jo Moody said: "It went really well. There were lots of people through the door, more than last year."

"One couple came from Manchester but there were a lot of local people who came along, too."

# Circular saws used on cash machines in gang's raids

A GANG of four raiders stole almost £700,000 from cash machines at supermarkets across the country by attacking them with circular saws, a court heard.

High-powered cars, including Audis and BMWs, were stolen by the men from Walsall and Birmingham, to use during the raids and were driven at speeds of up to 150mph during police pursuits, Birmingham Crown Court heard on Monday. Co-op stores were targeted during the 14-month spree by the group, who wore masks and balaclavas.

Noel Reilly, aged 33, of Southmead Way, Birchills, and David Holmes, 31, of Perch Road, Walsall, admitted two charges of conspiring to commit commercial burglaries between September 2010 and November 2011 and burglary in October last year.

Simon Phillips, 33, of Hullbrook Road, Billesley, and Darren Buckley, 35, of Hazelville Road, Acocks Green, admitted conspiring to commit commercial and house burglaries between September 2010 and October 2011.

Mr Nicholas Cartwright, prosecuting, said there were 33 attacks on cashpoints, with £684,210 stolen and only £8,000 recovered.

Co-op stores in the Park Hall area of Walsall, Solihull and Northfield and Quinton in Birmingham, were targeted in the Midlands.

A total of £84,000 was taken during a single raid on a cash machine in Suffolk.

## Targeted

Mr Cartwright said homes were targeted on six occasions for car keys, laptops and tablet computers, with one Audi driven by the group taken from an address in Longford Road, Cannock in July 2011.

He said some properties were targeted because the cars had been advertised in Auto Trader.

Ms Sophie Murray, defending Buckley, said he acted as a lookout and was not involved in all the burglaries.

Ms Lynette McClement, representing Phillips, said he was a father-of-five who had debt problems and succumbed to temptation.

The hearing was adjourned for sentence on Monday.

A hearing is expected to take place next year.

## Wasteland fire emptied a bar

A BAR in Walsall Wood had to be evacuated because of smoke from a nearby fire.

Crews were called after rubbish was set alight on wasteland near to the Q Bar on Saturday night.

The smoke went through air vents into the bar on Walsall Road forcing firefighters to evacuate the premises.

The fire, which happened at 9pm, was tackled and customers were able to return within 45 minutes.

## Fete at Delves care complex

A FETE will be held at an extra care housing complex in Walsall on Saturday.

Deighton Court, in Brockhurst Crescent, Delves, will host the event from noon to 5pm.

Eight stalls will be on offer including cakes and bric-a-brac.

## Art tribute to Ellie



Artist Cameron Galt puts finishing touches to his large portrait of Paralympic swimming star Ellie Simmonds

THE ARTIST behind a 7ft tribute to Walsall swimming star Ellie Simmonds said he was inspired by her success and the Paralympic Games being in London.

Father-of-two Cameron Galt created a watercolour painting of the teenager which was then put on to the canvas to make a larger portrait.

#### Olympic

It came about as his relatives are friends with the Simmonds family and he wanted to create an Olympic-themed piece as a member of the Royal Watercolour Society.

Mr Galt, of Birchills, said: "My first thought was of Ellie as she is a Paralympic star across the board from Beijing. Although her schedule is pretty tight and she is at Swansome most of the week it was done on a Saturday afternoon at her home in Aldridge."

## Policeman returns as new chief

A NEW chief superintendent has been appointed for Walsall.

Chief Superintendent David Sturman replaces Kevin Bullock, who is retiring after more than 30 years.

Mr Sturman will be responsible for local policing in Walsall. Originally from Stourbridge, he has 25 years of police experience.

He spent three years as superintendent for Walsall before moving back to police headquarters in 2010.

"I am absolutely delighted to be returning to the borough and look forward to the opportunity to lead our officers and staff in serving the public of Walsall," he said. "I will bring experience, passion and enthusiasm into the role."

"Crime in the borough is currently down compared to levels last year and I intend to continue this hard work and drive down crime levels down even further."

"Working together with the local community we will continue to make Walsall a safe place to live, work and visit."

Mr Sturman started his career with West Midlands Police in 1992 in Wolverhampton and has worked in Birmingham. This included five years in force operations where he was responsible for the force firearms, public order, dogs and other specialist uniform units.

AN INDOOR car boot sale will be held to raise money for Walsall FC Supporter's Club on Saturday, September 15, from 10am.

Vendors should arrive at the Bescot Crescent ground to set up at 9am.

Pitches can be booked on 01922 621179 or 649840.

Tables cost £7.50 or £5 and entry costs 30p.

#### Indoor boot sale for club

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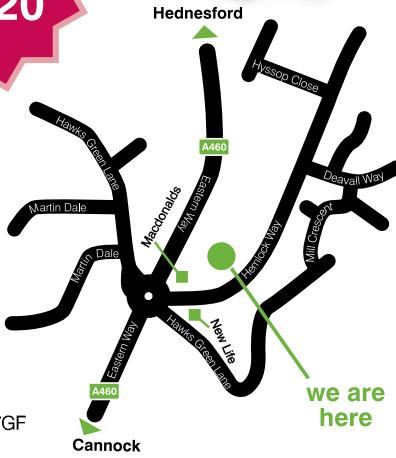
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| Friday               | 07 September | 09.00 - 13.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 10.00 - 16.00   |                    |                         |
| Saturday             | 08 September | 09.00 - 13.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 09.30 - 13.00   |                    | 09.30 - 13.00           |
| Monday               | 10 September | 12.00 - 19.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 10.00 - 16.00   |                    |                         |
| Tuesday              | 11 September | 12.00 - 19.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 10.00 - 16.00   |                    | 10.00 - 18.00           |
| Wednesday            | 12 September | 12.00 - 19.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 10.00 - 16.00   |                    |                         |
| Thursday             | 13 September | 12.00 - 19.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 10.00 - 16.00   | 10.00 - 18.00      | 10.00 - 18.00           |
| Friday               | 14 September | 09.00 - 13.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 10.00 - 16.00   |                    |                         |
| Saturday             | 15 September | 09.00 - 13.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 |                 |                    |                         |

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## NEWS

# Family jewellery firm in £1m expansion scheme

A FAMILY jewellers, which has been based in the Midlands for over a century, has revealed a £1 million expansion plan to increase its number of stores.

T H Baker, which was established in 1888, will open three new shops, adding to its growing network of jewellery outlets based across the country. The company has branches in Stourbridge, The Merry Hill shopping centre, Walsall, Halesowen and Kidderminster and has also been growing its Pandora range, which has an outlet in Birmingham's Bullring.

T H Baker's latest store, in Stratford-upon-Avon, takes the firm's network of stores to 19, staffed by 230 employees in total.

The business was founded on October 6, 1888 by watchmaker and jeweller Thomas Henry Baker who opened the company's first store, in Brierley Hill, which is still going today.

### Heritage

Chief executive, Andrew Higgs, said everyone was pleased to have secured the finance to enable the business to expand.

"We are very proud of our heritage and our success is testimony to the values set out by our great-great grandfather when he first established the business which was around offering great service and value," he said.

"We have continued to evolve the business with the introduction of the Pandora concept stores and some of our online ventures such as the Jewel Hut."

Thomas Henry Baker's daughter Phyllis and her husband, Frank Higgs, bought the business in 1915 - steering it through the financial difficulties of the First World War.

Two further branches were opened in Walsall and Wolverhampton between 1945 and 1952. Recent additions are Burton-on-Trent and Telford.

Alan Higgs, great grandson of Thomas Henry Baker, joined was appointed managing director in 1987.

## Faye's new role at college



Ex-student Faye Swinnerton is back at college as a security guard. FORMER Walsall College student Faye Swinnerton has returned to its only female security officer.

The 19-year-old, of Willenhall, has been appointed by Corps Security as a permanent security officer at the college's Wisemore Campus.

Faye, whose dream is to become a police officer, studied level two public services at the college before enrolling on an English course.

She will be responsible for making sure students, staff and the college site are safe.

"I couldn't believe it when I got the news that I would be stationed at Walsall College, I was thrilled," she said.

"I know exactly what it's like to be a student at the college and I have some great memories from my time here."

"I also hope I will be a positive role model to female students currently studying public services and show that women can succeed in a male-dominated industry."

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## MEMORY LANE



Old Edial Hall is gone but the adjoining farm and servants' house remain



Glasscroft, now Jones Lane, is decorated for the coronation of George VI



Burntwood Hall at Rakes Hill in a picture believed to date back to the 1950s



Homes in Rugeley Road known as Tub and Bucket Row

## Recalling man who bought his wife at Walsall market

AS WE get older the areas we live in change with us and it is only when we see old photos like these featured here, that we recall what it was like in our youth.

The old Christ Church vicarage at Burntwood has long gone to make way for more modern houses. Vicarages like these were expensive to maintain, though the expansion of nursing homes, and the like, found them ideal, so many fine houses were saved from the bulldozers.

Burntwood Hall escaped this fate, by alteration and conversion into flats. Now it is a fine house.

Opposite the gateway to St Matthew's Hospital was Glasscroft, now Jones Lane, seen here decorated for the Coronation of George VI, in 1937. Some much loved buildings meet

by Ron Bradbury

an accidental demise, such as the Chase Terrace High School on Bridge Cross Road, Chase Terrace. Burned beyond repair in August 2002, a fine new building replaces it, which ironically, is much more suited to modern schooling techniques.

Last month was the 10th anniversary of the fire.

Also long gone is the row of houses up the part of Rugeley Road, Burntwood known as Nags Hill. These houses long rejoiced in the name Tub and Bucket Row, because rainwater was collected from the drainpipes to use for domestic purposes, with drinking water coming from a well. It was a form of recycling.

Many of the families who lived there had been there for generations, one of them going down into folklore as the man who bought his wife at Walsall

market for 2/6d, 12 and a half pence in today's money. In reality he was not legally married, but had come to an arrangement with a farmer round the corner who wanted shut of his wife because of her infidelity. Selling one's wife in a public market place was like getting a divorce in those days, though wasn't recognised as so in law. One building still standing is Edial Hall.

### Slideshow

The Edial Hall of Samuel Johnson fame has long gone, but the adjoining servants' and farm building survived and is now a fine house in its own right.

All these photos and many more were featured in the Chase Heritage Group's monthly slideshow/film night this month.

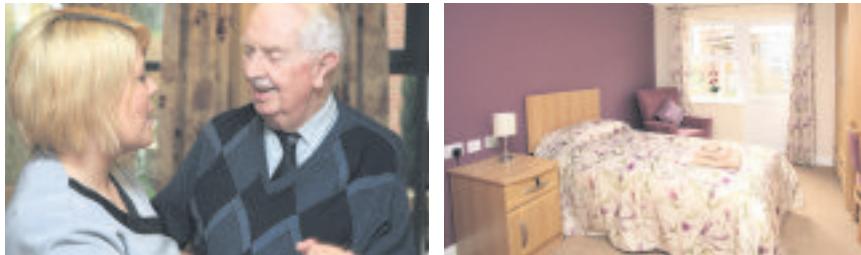
Similar shows are held on the first Tuesday of the month. Details are available on [www.burntwoodchaseheritage.weebly.com](http://www.burntwoodchaseheritage.weebly.com)



The old Christ Church vicarage at Burntwood



How Chase Terrace High School used to look



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## NEWS

# Council finance chief wants to protect benefit claimants

## It's a dolly good show



Jennifer Roberts, of Walsall, with a dolls house at the collectors' fair. HUNDREDS of dolls house collectors descended on the County Showground in Stafford for a fair.

More than 800 visitors went to the Staffordshire Dolls House and Miniature Collectors event on

A COUNCIL boss in Walsall says it is right to protect council tax benefit claimants in the face of a £3.3 million cut in Government funding.

Councils currently get a subsidy for delivering the benefit. They carry out the work for the Department of Work and Pensions.

But this funding is due to be cut by around 10 per cent, leaving Walsall facing a £3.3 million shortfall.

Cabinet members were expected to agree that the costs should be covered from other savings and income streams when they met yesterday (Wednesday).

This means the cut will not be passed on to residents and they will not have to find an extra £4.31 per week.

### Vulnerable

Finance boss Chris Towe said: "In Walsall around 35,000 households receive council tax benefit; if we passed on the reduction in subsidy to almost 19,000 current working aged council tax benefit customers this would see them having to find around an extra £4.31 per week.

"We appreciate that any changes in the way benefits are administered are extremely worrying for those who will be affected and we must try to protect our most vulnerable residents including disabled people and families with children, from loss in entitlement."

He added: "That's why I believe it is right for us to protect claimants from any changes for the first year while an alternative system is put in place.

"This is in line with what some of our neighbouring local councils are proposing to do."

### Five injured in crash

FIVE people were injured when two cars were involved in a crash on a country lane near Aldridge last week. The accident happened on September 5 at around 11.30pm at Crook Lane, near Barr Beacon. Two people had to be cut free from a vehicle.

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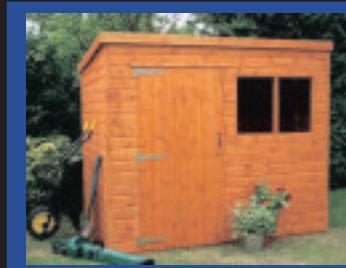


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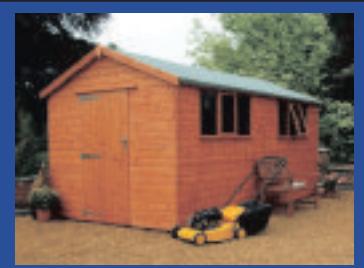


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## FOCUS ON PELSLALL

## Knockout idea for charities

RESIDENTS of Pelsall and the surrounding area are needed to help revive the classic game show 'It's A Knockout' by members of Walsall council.

The inaugural event due to be held on Pelsall Common on Saturday, October 27 is aimed at becoming an annual event to raise money for a number of local charities.

People from the area are being asked to help breathe life into the project by giving their own suggestions on what games and activities should be run as part of the event.

## Unique

Chairman of Brownhills, Pelsall, Shelfield and Rushall Area Partnership, Councillor Gary Perry, said: "We hope to create a unique community event which brings everyone together."

Anyone with ideas for games and activities to be held on the day are urged to contact Area Partnership Manager Ranjit Kaur by email at [ranjit@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:ranjit@walsall.gov.uk)

## Hog roast to help hospice

A CHARITY fun day is being held at a pub in Pelsall on Saturday featuring live bands, a hog roast and face painting. It is at The Railway Inn, Victoria Road, from 11am in aid of St Giles Walsall Hospice.

Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets are available for £5, guests are asked to bring their own drinks and fancy dress is optional. For tickets contact Sue Hill on 07714761852.

# Village's new centre will be 'a great asset' – councillor

COUNCILLORS were impressed when they visited Pelsall's new combined library, health and children's centre to see how work is progressing.

## Report by Tom Mason

However they recognised the disruption it may have caused for some local residents.

Cllr Longhi said: "A project of this magnitude will always mean that a few people might not be as pleased.

"Everyone has worked really hard to minimise any negative impact and my thanks go to ISG in particular for being so responsive and considerate."

Two GPs will be the first to move in.

The contractors will soon be sending out letters to local residents inviting them for a coffee, chat and tour of the new facilities.

## Back to the '80s

EXPECT to hear Wham!, The Human League and Duran Duran when a 1980s themed evening is hosted by Pelsall Priory Partnership at Brownhills Memorial house in Lichfield tomorrow (Friday). There is music from 80s tribute band Electric Dreams and the Helen Andrews Disco.

Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets are available for £5, guests are asked to bring their own drinks and fancy dress is optional. For tickets contact Sue Hill on 07714761852.



Promoter Mark Cooksey, The Arkhamists drummer Baden Fitzmaurice and The Lock In lead singer Chris Ward promote the concert to raise money for Pelsall Villa Colts

## Olivia is a future engineer

A TEENAGED girl from Pelsall has won the RAF's silver Crest award for her expertise in engineering at a week-long event held at RAF Cosford.

Olivia Wang, 15, was chosen from applicants from across the UK to take part in the course that taught aeronautical design as part of the Women in Science and Engineering Initiative.

She and 23 other girls learned engineering skills including how to replace the flap from the wing of a jet aircraft and erect a military radio communications mast.

## Aspire

Now considering a career in engineering, she said: "It was tiring but enjoyable work and at times very difficult."

Squadron Leader Glynn Dean said: "We've got to get on the girls' radar while they are young so they can aspire to a technical career in non-traditional areas."

The programme runs annually.

## Food foraging on the common

YOUNGSTERS can take part in a foraging expedition around Pelsall North Common on October 6.

It takes place from 10am and costs £2.50. Call 01922 459813.



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We would like to thank the individuals and companies that continue to support Pelsall Villa FC.

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## Brontë Country and Haworth Christmas market

Two-day break departing November 17

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Arranged by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

## Chatsworth Christmas festival

Two-day break departing November 17

**FROM £105\***

- Entrance to Chatsworth House and gardens

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## York St Nicholas fayre

Two-day break departing December 1

**FROM £89.95\***

- Overnight half-board accommodation

- Visits to York St Nicholas Fayre and Haworth

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Bath Christmas market

Two-day break departing December 1

**FROM £95\***

- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the McArthurGlen shopping Outlet

- Visit to Bath Christmas market

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Lincoln Christmas market

Two-day break departing December 8

**FROM £89.95\***

- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Meadowhall shopping centre

- Visit to Lincoln Christmas market

Arranged by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Grassington Dickensian festival and Manchester's Christmas markets

Two-day break departing December 8

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- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Manchester's Christmas markets

- Visit to the Grassington Dickensian festival

Arranged by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

## Stick to the action above

### Game

**Damage Inc. Pacific Squadron WWII** (12, £39.99, X360, PS3, PC)

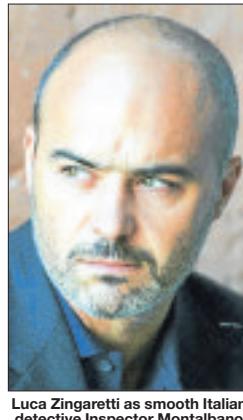
THIS aerial combat game puts the gamer in the cockpit of 32 1940s warplanes as you take revenge on the Imperial Japanese airforce for the attack on US forces in Pearl Harbour.

Get the version with the Pacific AVSR Flightstick, a sturdy piece of kit which plugs into a USB port, and the game comes to life. Then you can perform dives and barrel rolls with ease.

The game offers arcade and flight sim modes, more than 20 missions and the chance to take part in online dogfights.

The handling is good but the game is let down by poor scenery graphics at low altitude and robotic voice acting.

LB



Luca Zingaretti as smooth Italian detective Inspector Montalbano

### Books

**Four Children and It – Jacqueline Wilson**  
(Puffin, hardback, £12.99)

THE creator of Adrian Mole presents us with another memorable character in Eva Beaver.

This 50-year-old wife and mother, after despatching her teenaged twins to university, chucks tomato soup all over the chair she has spent two years embroidering and takes to her bed... for a year.

It soon turns out that this is more than a mere midlife crisis or even a nervous breakdown, as Eva's determination to stay on the sheets confounds her family and turns her into a celebrity.

Eva's dramatic way of reappraising her life allows Townsend to wittily point out the absurdities in modern suburban life.

This is a novel to provoke many wry smiles rather than belly laughs.

**The Dog Stars – Peter Heller**  
(Headline, hardback, £14.99)

Set in a near future America ravaged by killer flu and climate change, this first novel by adventurer Peter Heller is more a meditation on loss and loneliness than a killed-or-be-killed post-

apocalypse thriller. It has similarities with Cormac McCarthy's bleak The Road, including irritating anti-grammatical devices (lack of speech marks).

But the story of pilot Hig has hope and the character has battered decency. When the action does come, it is all the more gripping because we like Hig and his dog but not his trigger-happy partner.

**The Weekend Cookbook – Catherine Hill**  
(Penguin, hardback, £18.99)

The whole weekend is sorted by food writer Catherine Hill, from something easy for Friday night, via breakfasts that will want to make you leap out of bed, to fancy Saturday night dinners and hearty Sunday lunches. Nicely illustrated by Tim Winter's photographs, Hill's cookbook aims for maximum results for minimum effort and her recipes look very tasty indeed.

Leon Burakowski



## What's On!

### SATURDAY'S TV 15.09.12

#### CHOICE



Bruce Forsyth

#### Strictly Come Dancing – The 2012 Premiere

**BBC1, 6.30pm**

Maybe it's because wearing sparkly outfits and learning to foxtrot sounds a bit more appealing than eating bugs in the Australian jungle or spending two weeks cooped up in a house with cameras watching you 24 hours a day, but Strictly Come Dancing usually manages to attract a better class of celebrity than most reality shows. So, you should recognise at least half of the famous faces being introduced by Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly at this red-carpet event to launch the new series. We will finally find out who's taking part tonight!

#### BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live**. **11.30** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Athletics. **2.30** Live Golf: The Women's British Open. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** All New Tots Wipeout. Twenty more baby contestants face the course again.
- 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing – The 2012 Premiere.** Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host a red-carpet event following this year's celebrities as they meet their professional partners, and introducing new judge Darcie Bussell.
- 7.35 Doctor Who.** The Time Lord and his companion travel to a Wild West town being terrorised by a cyborg gunslinger which has an alien doctor on its hit list.
- 8.20 The National Lottery: Secret Fortune.** High-tension quiz show, presented by Nick Knowles. Best friends Kay and Karen attempt to win the top prize of £100,000.
- 9.10 Coronation Street.** Tess meets an expectant pregnant woman, while Fletch tries to unravel the relationship between a teenage girl and her swimming coach.
- 10.00 BBC News: Weather.**
- 10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Stoke City v Manchester City at the Britannia Stadium and Queens Park Rangers v Chelsea at Loftus Road; National Lottery Update.
- 11.50 The Football League Show.**
- 1.05 Weatherview.** **1.10 BBC News.**

#### BBC2

- 6.00** CBeebies. **7.00 CBeebies, 12.00 Film:** The Treasure of Perdido Villa. (1955) **1.30 Film:** She Wore a Yellow Ribbon. (1949) **3.15 Escape to the Country.** (R) **3.45** Fog It! (R) **4.30** Live Golf: The Women's British Open. **5.00** One Man and His Dog – LIVE!
- 6.15 Coast.** (R)
- 6.35 Wartime Farm.** Ruth Goodman, Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn experience life on a British farm in 1940, as British farmers in 1940, as rationing took hold and Nazi bombing raids intensified. (R)
- 7.35 Dad's Army.** Mainwaring and the squad stumble across the crew of a downed German aircraft. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)
- 8.10 Vikings.** Neil Oliver explores the history of the Norse Warriors, beginning by examining their ancient ancestry and charting Scandinavia's prehistoric landscape. (R)
- 9.10 QI XL.** An extended edition of the quiz, as Stephen Fry asks Victoria Coren, Bill Bailey, Jimmy Carr and Alan Davies questions about words beginning with 'Q'.
- 9.55 The Thick of It.** Former Cabinet minister Nicola Murray finds herself facing a new set of pressures in opposition, and begins to worry about whether she can rely on her party colleagues.
- 10.25 Clinton.** New series. The story of the former American president.
- 11.25 Film: The Special Relationship.** (2010) Fact-based political drama, starring Michael Sheen.
- 12.50 Film:** A Study in Terror. Thriller, with John Neville. (1965).

#### ITV1

- 6.00** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (1995) **1.30 Film:** She Wore a Yellow Ribbon. (1949) **3.15 Escape to the Country.** (R) **3.45** Fog It! (R) **4.30** Live Golf: The Women's British Open. **5.00** One Man and His Dog – LIVE!
- 6.10 ITV News: Weather.**
- 6.25 New You've Been Framed!**
- 6.55 Foot Britannia.** Hidden-camera pranks, with Dom Joly.
- 7.25 Red or Black?** Eight more contestants compete to win a huge cash prize by guessing the outcome of stunts and challenges, including a darting duel between Phil Taylor and Adrian Lewis. Continues after The X Factor.
- 8.10 The X Factor.** Gary Barlow, Nicole Scherzinger, Tulisa and Union J continue their search for the next big thing in music. Dermot O'Leary hosts.
- 9.10 Red or Black?** Canadian singer Nelly Furtado performs as the four remaining contestants face further challenges – but only one will be given a chance to take home the cash easily.
- 9.55 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host chats to Canadian pop sensation Justin Bieber, TV sport presenter Clare Balding and film star Liam Neeson, and the Killers perform their new single.
- 10.55 ITV News: Weather.**
- 11.10 Film: Disclosure.** (1994) Thriller, starring Michael Douglas and Demi Moore.
- 1.30 The Store.** ITV News. **2.30** By the Way. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Newsround. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

#### CHANNEL 4

- 6.00** The Tramps People. (R) **6.10 The Hoops.** (R) **6.25** British F3. International Series. **7.00** The Grid. **7.25** Freesports on 4. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Bourjois Boutique. **9.00** T4: iTunes Festival 2012; T4 Highlights. **9.30** T4: New Girl. (1989) **9.55** Regional Programme; Weather.
- 10.10** T4: New Girl. **10.40** T4: Revenge. **11.00** T4: The Grid. **11.45** T4: Suburbia. **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. **4.30** The Simpsons. (R) **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.35** 4thought.tv. **5.40** Film: Transformers. (2007) Sci-fi action adventure, stars Shia LaBeouf.
- 8.20 Comedy World Cup.** New series. David Tennant asks the questions as two teams of comedians from across the generations compete to showcase their knowledge of comedy.
- 9.20 The Million Pound Drop.** Live. Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants can win £1 million. They are challenged to place large quantities of the cash over trapdoors and face a series of questions, the wrong answers to which will lose them money every time they slip up.
- 10.55 Film: Hostage.** (2005) A former hostage negotiator draws on his old skills to save children held captive in their own home by a gang of crazed delinquents. Thriller, with Bruce Willis and Kevin Pollak.
- 1.10 Film:** The Clay Bird. (2002) Drama, starring Nurul Islam Babu. **2.55** Film: By the Way. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Newsround. **5.30** Countdown. (R)

#### CHANNEL 4

- 6.00** The Tramps People. (R) **6.10 The Hoops.** (R) **6.25** British F3. International Series. **7.00** The Grid. **7.25** Freesports on 4. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Bourjois Boutique. **9.00** T4: iTunes Festival 2012; T4 Highlights. **9.30** T4: New Girl. (1989) **9.55** Regional Programme; Weather.
- 10.10** T4: New Girl. **10.40** T4: Revenge. **11.00** T4: The Grid. **11.45** T4: Suburbia. **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. **4.30** The Simpsons. (R) **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.35** 4thought.tv. **5.40** Film: Transformers. (2007) Sci-fi action adventure, stars Shia LaBeouf.
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- 1.10 Film:** The Clay Bird. (2002) Drama, starring Nurul Islam Babu. **2.55** Film: By the Way. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Newsround. **5.30** Countdown. (R)

#### CHANNEL 5

- 6.00** The Great Movie Mistakes. **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.25** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Emergency Bikers. (R) **12.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.10** Film: Mystery Woman. (2003) Whodunit, starring Kellie Martin. **2.50** David Copperfield. (R)
- 2.20** 5 News Weekend.
- 2.25 Film:** Wyatt Earp. (1994) The life of the legendary lawman, from his early youth to his days as a sheriff and respected town marshal who engineered the gunfight at the OK Corral, a tragic confrontation with a notorious outlaw gang. Western, starring Kevin Costner.
- 10.00 CSI: Miami.** Three men are released from prison after being cleared of a 1992 murder – but one of them is found dead shortly afterwards, and the clues suggest a link to the original crime.
- 10.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** The discovery of a body leads Catherine and Warrick to reopen inquiries into the disappearance of a teenage girl. (R)
- 11.55 Inside Hollywood.** Magazine show, with location reports, news and views from behind the scenes. (R)

#### DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00** Great Movie Mistakes. **8.00** Top Gear. **9.00** Live at the Apollo. **10.00** Greg Davies: Firm Cheesecake at a Dog. **11.00** Family Guy. **11.45** American Dad!
- BBC Four**
- 7.00** Human Planet. **8.00** Mission to Mars: A Horizon Special. **9.00** Inspector Montalbano. **10.40** The Intercity 125: The Age of the Train. **11.40** The Three Rocketeers.
- ITV2**
- 3.05** The X Factor. **4.05** The Xtra Factor. **5.10** Film: Cool Runnings (1993) **7.05** Film: Dragonheart (1996) **9.10** The Xtra Factor. **10.00** Celebrity Juice. **10.55** Film: Happy Gilmore (1996)
- ITV3**
- 2.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot. **5.00** Down in Abbey. **7.00** Foyle's War. **9.00** Midsummer Murders. **11.00** Crime Connections.
- ITV4**
- 3.15** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.15** Film: Support Your Local Gunfighter (1971) **6.15** World's Wildest Police Videos. **7.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain. **8.00** River Monsters. **9.00** Film: The Game (1997) **11.35** Film: The Exorcist (1973)
- ITV5**
- 3.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot 2: Lost in New York (1992) **6.15** The Big Bang Theory. **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. **8.10** Rules of Engagement. **9.10** Film: Wedding Crashers (2005) **11.30** The Inbetweeners.
- ITV4**
- 3.50** Coraline (2009) **4.55** Roman Holiday (1953) **7.15** Laws of Attraction (2004) Romantic comedy, with Pierce Brosnan and Julianne Moore. **9.00** Patriot Games (2014) Political thriller, starring Harrison Ford. **11.15** Scary Movie (2000)

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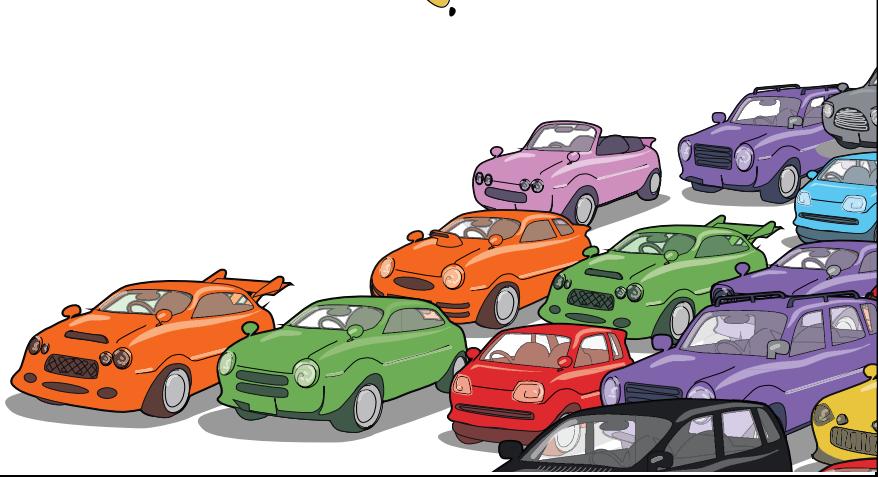
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## What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 16.09.12

## CHOICE



## Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers

## Channel 5, 11.25am

Channel 5 loves a good trucking programme – a quick glance through the schedules will show you that. The adventures of a bunch of highly paid, death-defying Canadians and Americans driving their cargo to and from some of the most inhospitable places on Earth in Ice Road Truckers has been little short of jaw-dropping. This home-grown offering is a lot less do-or-die, but it still makes for good viewing. In this episode, a trucking convoy journeys through the Alps on a 1200-mile trip to deliver tyres to a Formula One test race in Italy.

## BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 8.30 The Andrew Marr Show. 9.30 Live Athletics. 10.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.45 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.30 Cash in the Attic. (R) 3.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Lifeline. 4.10 Points of View. 4.25 Songs of Praise. 5.00 Planet Earth Live: A Lion's Tale. 6.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

6.30 **Fake or Fortune?** New Series. Brian Bremner and expert Philip Mould investigate art with mysterious origins, beginning by helping a man who believes he owns a painting by French artist Edgar Degas.

7.30 **Countryfile.** Matt Baker explores the beauty of the North of England's countryside, as captured through the writing of DH Lawrence, and Adam Henson goes shepherding in the Swiss Alps. Including: Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.30 **Inspector George Gently.** The detective is accused of fabricating evidence against an old adversary and a former colleague from London arrives to offer his support. With Kevin Whately. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

10.25 **Match of the Day 2.**

11.15 **In with the Flynns.** Liam goes snooping round a neighbour's home. (R)

11.45 **Film: Two for the Money.** (2005) Gambling drama, with Al Pacino.

1.40 **Weatherview.** 1.45 Sign Zone: Snowdonia – A Year in the Wild. (R) 2.45 Holby City. (R) 3.45 Good Cop. (R) 4.45 BBC News.

## BBC2

6.00 **Cbeebies.** 7.00 CBBC. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 CBBC. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 **The Great British Bake Off.** (R) 12.30 Live MotoGP. 2.00 Live Golf: The Women's British Open. 5.00 One Man and His Dog – LIVE! 6.15 **Rugby League.**

7.15 **Richard Hammond's Crash Course.** The host visits Dallas-Fort Worth Airport in Texas for an encounter with the world's largest and most powerful fire engine – and experiences the training its crew must undergo.

8.00 **China on Four Wheels.** Anita Rani and Justin Rowatt explore the contrasting faces of modern China on the concluding leg of their journey to Shanghai, including potholed roads and a wine cellar.

9.00 **Dragon's Den.** A Welsh grandmother charms the Dragons as she tries to secure investment for her food website, while the usual rules of the Den are disregarded during a pitch for a haircare brand.

10.00 **Mock the Week.** Radio 4 favourite Milton Jones and Irish comedian Ed Byrne join David Walliams, Helen Dennis, Andy Parsons and Chris Addison for another round of the satirical news quiz. (R)

10.30 **Hilary Devey's Women at the Top.** Conclusion.

The entrepreneur explores ways to help women prosper in the workplace and assesses the effectiveness of policies instituted by some of Britain's biggest companies. (R)

11.30 **Athletics.**

12.10 BBC News. 4.05 Close.

## ITV1

6.00 **CITV.** 9.25 **ITV News.** 9.30 **House Gift.** (R) 10.25 **There's No Taste Like Home.** (R) 11.25 **The Hungry Sailors.** (R) 12.20 **ITV News: Weather.** 12.30 **The X Factor.** (R) 1.35 **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) 2.30 **Film: Columbo: A Bird in the Hand.** (1992) 2.45 **Don Martin.** (R) 5.25 **The Talent Show Story.** (R) 6.25 **Regional Programme:** Weather.

6.45 **ITV News: Weather.**

7.00 **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Dan Lobb, Eddie Boxshall, Chris Packham and Jennie McAlpine try to win thousands of pounds for charity by outwitting one of the show's resident trivia experts.

8.00 **The X Factor.** Judges Gary Barlow, Nicole Scherzinger, Tulisa and Louis Walsh continue their search for a singing sensation by putting more hopefuls through their paces.

9.00 **Downton Abbey.** New series. Cora's mother Martha (Shirley MacLaine) arrives at Downton for Matthew and Mary's wedding – but the couple are struggling to stay united ahead of their big day.

10.30 **ITV News: Weather.**

10.45 **Piers Morgan's Life Stories:** Roger Moore. The actor recalls the highs and lows of his acting career, his personal life, lifts the lid on his four marriages and tells the story of his upbringing in south London. (R)

11.50 **Premiership Rugby Union.**

12.45 **The Store, ITV News Headlines.** 2.45 **British Superbike Championship Highlights.** 3.40 **Motorsport UK.** 4.30 **ITV Nightscreen.** 5.30 **ITV Morning News.**

## CHANNEL 4

6.05 **The Treacle People.** (R) 6.15 **The Hoobs.** (R) 6.40 **Ironman 2012.** 7.05 **Strathtyne Park Triathlon.** 8.00 **Will & Grace.** (R) 8.25 **Will & Grace.** (R) 8.55 **Fraser.** (R) 9.25 **Fraser.** (R) 10.00 **Sunday Brunch.** 12.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) 1.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) 2.00 **The Simpsons.** (R) 2.30 **Film: The Princess and the Pea.** (2010) 3.45 **Deal or No Deal.** 4.45 **Come Dine with Me: Ireland.** 5.20 **Come Dine with Me: Ireland.** 5.55 **Come Dine with Me: Ireland.**

6.20 **Come Dine with Me: Ireland.** A nervous Emma Carr hosts her first-ever dinner party, with a caricaturist helping to show her guests their colours.

6.50 **Come Dine with Me: Ireland.** Martin Butler hosts the final dinner party in Dublin. Last in the series.

7.20 **Channel 4 News.**

7.50 **4Thought.tv.** A Buddhist nun explains how art helped her find peace.

7.55 **The Political Slot.** With Green Party of England and Wales leader Natalie Bennett.

8.00 **Fatal Flight 447: Chaos in the Cockpit.** The facts behind the crash of the Air France flight in June 2009.

9.00 **Big Fat Quiz of the 80s.** New series. The quiz grills celebrities on decades gone by, beginning with the 1980s. Jonathan Ross, Jason Manford, Micky Flanagan and Stephen Mangan answer the questions.

10.35 **Alan Carr: Chatty Man.** With Pink and Gok Wan. (R)

11.40 **Shameless.** (R)

12.45 **American Football Live.** 4.45 **Deal or No Deal.** (R) 5.40 **Baking Mad** with Eric Lanlard. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. 6.05 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) 6.15 **Fifi and the Flowertots.** (R) 6.25 **City of Friends.** (R) 6.40 **The Mr Men.** (R) 7.05 **Roobarb and Custard Too.** (R) 7.15 **Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) 7.25 **Playtime.** 7.30 **Modest Mouse.** (R) 7.45 **Ernie's Great Adventures.** (R) 7.55 **Little Princess.** (R) 8.05 **The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) 8.25 **Angelina Ballerina.** 8.40 **Rupert Bear.** (R) 8.55 **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** 9.00 **Erin's Travelling Circus.** 9.25 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) 9.40 **Jelly Jamm.** (R) 10.00 **Power Rangers Samurai.** 10.35 **Batman: The Brave and the Bold.** 11.10 **Looney Tunes.** (R) 11.15 **Looney Tunes.** (R) 11.25 **Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers.** (R) 12.25 **Film: Capricorn One.** 1.25 **5.45 Film: The Fifth Element.** 5.50 **5.05 Film: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.** (1971)

7.10 **5 News Weekend.**

7.15 **Film: Jackie Chan's The Medallion.** (2003) Comedy adventure, starring Jackie Chan, Lee Evans and Claire Forlani.

9.00 **Film: Swordsfish.** (2001) A computer hacker is recruited by a former anti-terrorist agent to embezzle millions from the US government.

11.00 **Film: Desperado.** (1995) Action thriller, starring Antonio Banderas.

1.00 **SuperCasino.** 4.00 **4.00 The FBI Files.** (R) 4.50 **County Secrets.** (R) 5.00 **Hana's Helpline.** (R) 5.10 **The Milkshake! Show.** (R) 5.35 **Thomas & Friends.** (R) 5.45 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

## DIGITAL

## BBC Three

7.00 **Be Your Own Boss.** 8.00 **Film: Indians Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.** (2008) 10.00 **Family Guy.** 10.45 **Bad Education.** 11.15 **American Dad!**

## BBC Four

7.00 **Julia Bradbury's Canal Walks.** 7.30 **The Story of Light.** Entertainment 9.00 **The Pharaoh Who Conquered the Sea.** 10.00 **Film: Loose Cannons.** (2010) 11.45 **British Passions on Film.**

## ITV2

3.00 **Film: Dennis.** (1993) 4.50 **The X Factor.** 5.55 **The Xtra Factor.** 6.55 **Film: Dante's Peak.** (1997) 7.00 **The X Factor.** 10.00 **Film: Hot Fuzz.** (2007)

## ITV3

5.00 **Film: On the Buses.** (1971) 5.55 **Lewis.** A woman's murder is copied from the pages of a novel.

9.00 **Film: Rain Man.** (1988) 11.45 **Cracker.**

## ITV4

2.30 **Live Cycling: Tour of Britain.** Stage eight from Reigate to Guildford. 4.30 **Police.** Camera, Action! 5.00 **Film: Weekend at Bernie's.** (1989) 7.00 **Cycling: Tour of Britain.** 8.00 **Premiership Rugby.** 9.00 **An Audience with Billy Connolly.** 10.10 **Film: Coogan's Bluff.** (2007)

## E4

3.50 **New Girl.** 4.20 **Suburgatory.** 4.45 **Revenge.** 5.50 **The Big Bang Theory.** 7.40 **Film: Ever After: A Cinderella Story.** (1998) 10.00 **The Inbetweeners.** 11.05 **2 Broke Girls.** 11.35 **New Girl.**

## Film4

3.20 **Von Ryan's Express.** (1965) 5.35 **Dr Dolittle.** (1998) 7.15 **Stormbreaker.** (2006) 9.00 **Clear and Present Danger.** (1994) Action thriller, with Harrison Ford. 11.45 **Good Luck Chuck.** (2007)

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## What's On!

### Film Choices

#### MONDAY

**Out of Time, Channel 5, 10pm**  
The chief of police in a small Florida town is having an affair with a married woman who is dying of cancer. When his lover and her abusive husband are both murdered, he becomes the prime suspect in the case – and his ex-wife is appointed as the investigating officer. Crime Thriller, starring Denzel Washington, Eva Mendes, Dean Cain and Sanaa Lathan. (2003)

#### TUESDAY

**Trust the Man, BBC1, 11.45pm**

Two Manhattan-based couples hit a rocky patch in their relationships. Husband and wife Tom and Rebecca look to therapy and counselling to try to save their ailing marriage, while Tobey and Elaine decide to go their separate ways after seven difficult years together. Comedy drama, with David Duchovny, Julianne Moore, Billy Crudup and Maggie Gyllenhaal. (2005)

#### WEDNESDAY

**Full Metal Jacket, ITV1, 10.35pm**

Raw Marine recruits undergo gruelling basic training for the Vietnam War under the command of a domineering drill sergeant whose methods lead to the breakdown of one of his cadets. Eventually, some of the fully trained soldiers get their first taste of combat in 1968. Stanley Kubrick's drama, starring Matthew Modine, Adam Baldwin, Vincent D'Onofrio and R Lee Ermey. (1987)



Casino Royale, Friday, ITV1, 10.35pm

#### THURSDAY

**Taken in Broad Daylight, BBC1, 11.35pm**

Fact-based thriller about a teenage girl who is kidnapped and held hostage for six days. However, far from cracking up during her traumatic experience, she keeps her wits about her, manipulating her captor and leaving subtle clues for the police to ensure rescue as the abductor moves her across state lines. Fact-based thriller, with Sara Canning, James Van Der Beek, LeVar Burton and Diana Reis. (2009)

#### FRIDAY

**Casino Royale, ITV1, 10.35pm**

James Bond achieves his '00' status and is dispatched on the trail of Le Chiffre, an international criminal financing terrorist organisations around the world. Bond's investigation leads to a casino in Montenegro, where he takes part in a high-stakes poker game in a bid to bankrupt Le Chiffre and put an end to his plans. Spy thriller, directed by Martin Campbell and starring Daniel Craig in his first outing as 007, with Eva Green, Mads Mikkelsen, Judi Dench and Giancarlo Giannini. (2006)

### Pick of the Week

## Family matters are set to complicate events

**T**he First World War is over, Sybil is pregnant with her first child and Mary is about to marry Matthew.

So, as we enter 1920, everything is well the Crawley family's world, right?

Well, not exactly – after all, this is a TV drama, so misery, scandal, backbiting, chaos and tragedy can only be just around the corner.

Certainly life at Downton Abbey may never be the same again – Bates remains in jail after being wrongly convicted of his wife's murder, and butler Carson is struggling to find the 'right' kind of person to join the staff. It seems that the war has changed everything and people are no longer happy to spend their lives in service and stand on weathered aristocrats, not when they may have a chance to make something of themselves.

Of course the biggest news from this third series is that Oscar-winning Hollywood megastar Shirley MacLaine is joining the cast as Cora's redoubtable mother, Martha Levinson, who makes the journey across the

Atlantic for the big Crawley wedding.

"In those days the American women who had money were looking for titles, and the titled men were looking for American women," explains MacLaine. "So Martha is the bint of the American matriarch who lands on the pond with money. And they expect her to finance whatever's wrong with Downton Abbey."

The actress, whose previous projects include such massive cinematic hits as Sweet Charity, Terms of Endearment, The Apartment and Steel Magnolias, will only be appearing in a handful of episodes, but is sure that her character will live long in the memory.

"She is extremely outspoken. Martha's basic role in these episodes is to be a mother who wants her Countess to wrest herself, if possible, away from Downton, because that's what caused the war in the first place, and to become more flexible in relating to change."

What viewers are looking forward to is seeing MacLaine and Maggie Smith (who plays the Dowager Countess), lock horns on screen – after all, they

are two of the acting game's most formidable, experienced and talented women.

But MacLaine lets us down slightly by revealing that she won't be in the series. "The gunfight at the OK Corral does not happen between Maggie and me. We do a little sparring, we have our moments, but it's more sophisticated than that. Martha is not just a crass, cranky American coming in there to call a spade a spade. She's very smart and to a large extent sensitive as to what's going on with all her daughter's children."

"And Maggie's character is so well established, but you have to look beyond what's her expected reaction to Martha. The Dowager Countess is a human being who has complications and a past of some pain that Martha understands – and to some extent addresses herself to."

MacLaine does, however, admit that she had a grand old time, and especially enjoyed filming at Highclere Castle, which doubles as Downton.

She's also sure we're going to enjoy watching her character in action – and, frankly, we can't wait to see her.



Shirley MacLaine stars in Downton Abbey, Sunday, ITV1, 9pm

### Best of the Rest

#### MONDAY

**Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs, ITV1, 8pm**

Like Animal Hospital before it, this show tugs on the heartstrings with more skill than a seasoned cellist, but it's Paul O'Grady's quick wit and no-nonsense approach that makes it more than just an attempt to grab ratings. Once more POG is working with the canines at the world famous Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, and has his hands full when a behaviourist enlists him to work with a Rottweiler-bull mastiff cross with a fear of men. (Maybe Paul should adopt the guise of former alias Lily Savage). Plus, clinic workers attempt to find a home for two dogs that have developed a close friendship, and the centre receives a visit from model and centre ambassador David Gandy.

#### TUESDAY

**Derren Brown: Svengali, Channel 4, 9pm**

He's back. Channel 4's favourite illusionist who has spent the past decade fronting shows such as Miracles for Sale, Derren Brown: Mind Control, and Messiah. A few months ago DB took his award-winning show to Nottingham's Theatre Royal, where he attempted to extract secret confessions from the audience, played unforgettable mind games and revealed the wonder of Svengali – an automaton allegedly created in the image of its owner's dead son. Was it used in early Victorian magic shows, or is it another of Brown's eerie games? Tune in to this unnerving gig and make up your own mind.

**The Rob Brydon Show, BBC2, 10pm**

It may have been in the pipeline for five years but a film version of classic cops and robbers saga The Sweeney has finally made it onto the big screen after a few false starts. Star Ray Winstone is doing his best to ensure everybody knows about it, so, aside from plugging the movie, he attempts to teach Rob how to act tough. Also this week, Brian Cox will be discussing his efforts to make science accessible for everyone. And as this series often seems like just an excuse for Rob Brydon to have a singalong with some of his celebrity mates, he'll no doubt jump at the chance to share the musical spotlight with Stereophonics singer Kelly Jones.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Mrs Biggs, ITV1, 9pm**

Plenty of people wrote off this drama before it even began – after all, the story of The Great Train Robbery had already been told many times, what more could be said? As it turns out, plenty. The tale of Charnian Biggs, wife of the notorious Ronnie, has been enthralling so far, and it takes more twists and turns here. After having an affair and an abortion, Charnian helps plan Ronnie's escape and the family relocate to Australia. She falls pregnant again with their third son, and life seems to be getting back on track – until events back home suggest the police

haven't given up hope of finding the Biggs' just yet. Sheridan Smith and Danny Mays star.

#### Dallas

**Channel 5, 9pm**

Hurray! JR's arch enemy Cliff Barnes is back for the first time in more than 15 years, and it's just like old times. After the smirking oil baron calmly scuppers John Ross's plan to double-cross him, JR decides to move back to Southfork. However, the Ewings are faced with more problems when Cliff resurfaces and tries to reconnect with his nephew Christopher. Elsewhere, Tommy has intriguing news for Rebecca.

**THURSDAY**

**Good Cop, BBC1, 9pm**

Few actors who've left the bright lights of Chester's Hollyoaks behind in search of a good, meaty role in telly have actually found it. But clearly with Warren Brown we're dealing with a whole different kettle of fish – and he's settled into the role of PC Paul Rockavage rather nicely. But like all good things, this series must come to an end. In the final instalment, Sav seems to be having a bit of trouble with not



Derren Brown: Svengali, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

letting his emotions get in the way of his work; in fact, his quest to get Jonjo arrested for Andy's murder draws suspicion from Costello and Sarge. But it's only when a set-up with Amanda goes very wrong, that the cop decides to do things his way...

**FRIDAY**

**Parade's End, BBC2, 9pm**

Given Benedict Cumberbatch's piping hot status, it was a curious decision by the BBC to take a drama adapted by internationally acclaimed writer Tom Stoppard and then put it on BBC2 on a Friday night. If ever a show had a prime-time Sunday night slot stamped all over it, it was this one. Now the final part of the tale based on Ford Madox Ford's quartet of novels sees Christopher sent to the front line of the First World War with McKechnie and Perowne, while Valentine waits for news from him. And Sylvia makes a final desperate bid to win back his love.

**Being Liverpool, Channel 5, 9pm**

It's been a difficult summer for Liverpool. Kop favourite Kenny Dalglish left the club for a second time, and Brendan Rodgers was poached from Swansea City. Sadly the first few games of the new season haven't exactly gone to plan – with some fans pinpointing the club's inability to sign a new striker at the heart of the team's problems. So, with turmoil on and off the pitch, this new, six-part series should prove fascinating. Filming began just days after Liverpool's defeat to Chelsea in the FA Cup final, and cameras have been allowed full access to all aspects of the club and players.

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Bellway Homes is helping buyers onto the property ladder in the West Midlands with the NewBuy scheme

NEWBUY, the scheme that enables home buyers to purchase a brand new home with as little as five per cent deposit is now available with Bellway Homes at its developments throughout the West Midlands.

The Government backed scheme was launched six months ago to help people buy a new build home who were struggling to save the large deposits that were being required by mortgage lenders. In just six months it has helped 1,300 people reserve a home across England.

It can be used by first time buyers or second steppers without enough equity in their current home to move on.

95 per cent mortgages had been the norm for decades before the economic crisis and subsequent credit crunch hit in 2007. Since then they have all but disappeared from the market, leaving many wannabe home buyers unable to realise their dreams of home ownership.

## Afford

Maria Seed, sales director at Bellway said: "NewBuy offers people who didn't think that they could afford to buy the option of buying a brand new home."

"It aims to help those who couldn't afford the deposits required by mortgage lenders by allowing them to buy with a five per cent deposit."

"Newbuild homes offer some real advantages. They are much cheaper to run than second hand homes and don't

require any DIY or alterations to be carried out as everything in them is brand new.

"I would encourage people to come down to Grosvenor Park and see what is on offer."

"We know people want to buy, but many have been thwarted by the current large deposit requirements."

"NewBuy is proving a lifeline for people as it allows them to buy their dream home with a five per cent deposit."

"Many NewBuy buyers had been staying with parents saving a deposit or stuck in a house no longer big enough for their family."

"NewBuy is proving a real winner for them after such a frustrating time."

For further information on NewBuy go to either [www.NewBuy.org.uk](http://www.NewBuy.org.uk) or [www.bellway.co.uk](http://www.bellway.co.uk)

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# K. Stuart Swash

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Guide: £90,000/£110,000

VIEWING: ALL THOSE VIEWING MUST BRING A TORCH  
NO TORCH = NO VIEWING

THURSDAY & FRIDAY,  
13th & 14th SEPTEMBER @ 10.30 am



25 SOMERFORD PLACE, WILLENHALL

An impressive Detached Victorian House used as Two Flats Ground Floor: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, WC, Cellar First Floor: Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, smart Shower Room, Separate WC. Driveway at side, Garage, Outbuilding and Garden

Guide: £93,000/£98,000

VIEWING: THURSDAY & FRIDAY  
13th & 14th SEPTEMBER @ 12.00 noon



57 CENTRAL DRIVE, COSELEY

A large immaculately presented First Floor Flat overlooking an open green and with the benefit of Garden to the rear. Spacious Lounge, well appointed Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, smart Bathroom Gas Central Heating, Store and Outside Store

Guide: £59,000/£64,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY 14th SEPTEMBER @ 3.30 pm  
& SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER @ 12.30 pm



24 ST JUDES ROAD WEST, NEWBRIDGE,  
WOLVERHAMPTON

Located close to the City Centre within a mile of the City Centre A charming Semi Detached in need of modernisation Two Reception, Kitchen, Lounge, Bathrooms, Two Bedrooms, Long Rear Garden

Guide: £73,000/£78,000

VIEWING: THURSDAY 13th SEPTEMBER @ 1.00 pm  
& SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER @ 11.30 am



70/70A WROTTESLEY ROAD,  
TETTENHALL

In a prime residential area, a Detached Property comprising Two Self-Contained Flats Each offers Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Outside - Two Garages and delightful extensive Gardens

Guide: £250,000/£270,000

VIEWING: THURSDAY 13th SEPTEMBER @ 1.45 pm & SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER @ 10.30 am



82 CROSS ROAD, ALBRIGHTON

A short distance from the centre of this attractive and popular village which offers most amenities. A Three Bedroomed Semi overlooking open fields and with pleasant Rear Garden Improvement/modernisation needed

Guide: £93,000/£98,000

VIEWING: THURSDAY 13th SEPTEMBER @ 3.00 pm  
& SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER @ 9.30 am



131 WINDSOR AVENUE, PENN

Now a little tired but an excellent opportunity to refurbish a Three Bed Semi in a popular residential area. Two Reception, Kitchen, Bathrooms, Old Garage Front and Rear Gardens currently managed by nature!

Guide: £93,000/£98,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 14th & 15th SEPTEMBER @ 9.30 am



100 LESLIE ROAD, PARK VILLAGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Large double-fronted Victorian Detached Two Reception, Kitchen, Shower Room, Two Double Bedrooms & Bathroom Very large Workshop/Store at rear - approx 1,100 sq ft. Double doors for access at side

Guide: £85,000/£95,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 14th & 15th SEPTEMBER @ 11.45 am



95 NINE ELMS LANE, PARK VILLAGE,  
WOLVERHAMPTON

On a large corner plot this well presented Semi overlooks parkland Two Reception and Study area, Kitchen, fitted Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom Gas CH, upvc Windows, Two Drives & Garage, pleasant Garden

Guide: £85,000/£95,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY,  
14th & 15th SEPTEMBER @ 12.30 p.m.

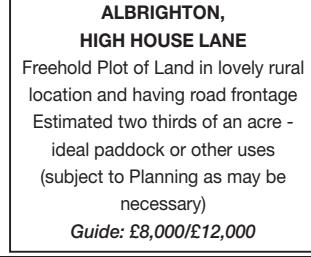


646 PARKFIELD ROAD,  
PARKFIELD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Large Semi with rear vehicular access and Garage Upvc Windows, Gas CH Two Reception, Kitchen, Bathrooms, Three Bedrooms, First Floor WC Two Outside Stores, Attractive Garden

Guide: £85,000/£95,000

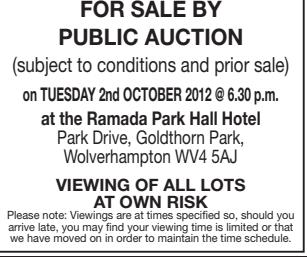
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Guide: £8,000/£12,000



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plumbing for dishwasher. A utility room has a Belfast sink with plumbing for a washing machine. There is a side hall, 11ft 2in by 5ft 11in.

There are three bedrooms, a study/bedroom four and bathroom with panel bath with mixer shower, pedestal wash hand basin and bidet.

The rear garden has a substantial paved patio leading onto a shaped lawn with borders, and with steps down from the upper garden onto an extensive lower lawn with trees. There is also a summerhouse and integrated into the rear of the garage are three storage rooms.

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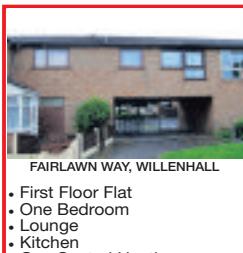
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● Solid Timber Flooring● Family Bathroom  
● Conservatory● Integral Garage

£192,000



**Essington**  
**Albany Grove**  
● Four Bedroom Detached  
● Two Reception Rooms  
● Extended Kitchen● Conservatory  
● Family Bathroom● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Carport & Garage● Driveway

In the Region of £185,000



**Bloxwich**  
**Lyford Road**  
● Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow  
● Through Lounge/Diner● Kitchen  
● Gas Central Heating  
● Garage● Off Road Parking  
● Corner Plot Location

In the Region of £180,000



**Willenhall**  
**Crab Lane**  
● Four Bedroom Link-Detached  
● Through Lounge/Diner● Kitchen  
● Ground Floor Shower Room  
● First Floor Shower Room● Utility Room  
● Garage & Off Road Parking● Gardens

Offers in excess of £175,000



**Willenhall**  
**Wood Lane**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room  
● Fitted Kitchen● Family Bathroom  
● Conservatory● Garage/Workshop  
● Gardens● Off Road Parking

In the Region of £165,000



**Walsall**  
**Water Reed Grove**  
● Three Bedroom Detached  
● Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room  
● Fitted Kitchen● Family Bathroom  
● Conservatory● Garage/Workshop  
● Gardens● Off Road Parking

In the Region of £159,950



**Willenhall**  
**Dursley Close**  
● Three Bedroom Detached  
● Through Lounge/Dining Room  
● Shower Room● Fitted Kitchen  
● Master Bed with En-Suite Shower Room  
● Gardens● Garage & Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £149,950



**Walsall**  
**Leamore Lane**  
● Three Bedroom Town House  
● Kitchen/Diner● Utility● Cloakroom W.C.  
● First Floor Landing● Family Bathroom  
● En-Suite Shower Room● Gardens  
● Detached Garage

In the Region of 145,000



**Walsall**  
**Leamore Lane**  
● Three Bedroom Town House  
● Lounge● Kitchen● Family Bathroom  
● En-Suite● Utility● Front & Rear Gardens● Garage  
● Off Road Parking to Rear

In the Region of £135,000



**Walsall**  
**Little Island Drive**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Lounge● Kitchen● Utility● Driveway  
● Master Bedroom with En-Suite  
● Family Bathroom● Integral Garage  
● Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing

Offers Over £130,000



**Willenhall**  
**High Road**  
● Three Bedroom Detached  
● Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room  
● Fitted Kitchen● Utility Room  
● Family Bathroom● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Off Road Parking● D.Glazing & Central Heating

Offers in excess of £130,000



**Bloxwich**  
**Newhouse Way**  
● Three Bedroom Town House  
● Fitted Kitchen● Lounge  
● Cloakroom W.C.● Family Bathroom  
● En-Suite Shower Room● Gardens  
● Detached Garage & Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £130,000



**Bloxwich**  
**Drake Road**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Lounge● Kitchen● Bathroom  
● Extended Dining Room  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Garage & Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £129,950



**Walsall**  
**Smiths Flour Mill**  
● Two Bedroom Penthouse Apartment  
● Lounge● Integrated Kitchen  
● Electric Heating & Double Glazing  
● Allocated Parking● Family Bathroom  
● Many Upgrades (Please ask for Details)

Offers in excess of £125,000



**Bloxwich**  
**Granton Grove**  
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace  
● Kitchen● Lounge● Fitted Bathroom  
● Rear Enclosed Garden  
● Two Allocated Parking Spaces  
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £116,950



**Rushall**  
**King George Crescent**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Two Reception Rooms  
● Fitted Kitchen● Family Bathroom  
● Double Glazing● Gas Central Heating  
● Gardens● Driveway● NO CHAIN

In the Region of £115,000



In the Region of £110,000



In the Region of £110,000



Offers in excess of £105,000



In the Region of £99,950



In the Region of £87,500



Offers in excess of £85,000



In the Region of £85,000



In the Region of £85,000



£84,500



In the Region of £79,995



In the Region of £78,000



Offers in excess of £70,000

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# DIXONS

Estate Agents

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01902 634497

DoingMore...

## Edmoor Close, Willenhall



**£150,000**

NEW

A well presented three bedroom detached home situated in a rarely available cul-de-sac just off Coppice Lane. Extended to allow for a spacious kitchen/breakfast room and separate dining room. Also benefitting from garage and driveway. Vendor is motivated to sell and has found, Call us today to view

## Riverbank Road, Willenhall



**£150,000**

NEW

A "showhome style" three bedroom semi-detached home with garage situated on the extremely sought after "Riverpoint" development. Benefiting further from refitted bathroom and a stunning en-suite with bespoke bath tub and furthermore a newly fitted kitchen!!! Viewing is essential!!!

## Newark Road, Willenhall



**Offers Over £120,000**

NEW

A three bedroom semi detached home situated on the popular "Broadway" development. Benefiting from a refitted kitchen and bathroom and extension to allow for utility room. Priced realistically a viewing is advised early to avoid disappointment.

## Maree Grove, Willenhall



**£190,000**

NEW

A well presented four bedroom detached with en-suite. Situated on the popular "Copice Farm" development in a cul-de-sac location. A viewing is highly recommended to avoid missing out!! Call us today for an appointment to view!!!

## Bentley Lane, Willenhall



**£230,000**

REDUCED

A "Showhome Style" five bedroom, three bathroom detached home situated ideally for local shops and schools. Thought to offer more space than is usual due to being designed and built by the present owners. A viewing is absolutely essential!! seller has found.

## Pooles Lane, Willenhall



**£200,000**

Traditional Family Home with kerb appeal & character. En-vious rear garden, garage, guest WC, bathroom & bedrooms. Traditional features including high ceilings, landing & entrance hallway.

## Pineneedle Croft, Willenhall



**£150,000**

REDUCED

A four bedroom semi detached home situated in a sought after cul-de-sac off Stroud Avenue. Benefiting from a Kitchen/Diner and extension adding generous bedroom space. A viewing is essential to appreciate the scale of this house.

## Lydney Close, Willenhall



**£140,000**

REDUCED

An extended home in a cul-de-sac spot off the popular Stroud Ave. Four bedrooms with even the smallest measuring. Refitted bathroom & a larger than average garage!! Owners selling with No Chain.

## Upper Sneyd Road, Essington



**£120,000**

A stunningly presented three bedroom terraced cottage off a prestigious road in Essington. Having been extensively refitted internally and benefitting from a beautifully landscaped rear garden. With views of open fields to the rear. Viewing essential!!!

## Bilston Lane, Willenhall



**£99,995**

A traditional style three bedroom semi detached home situated on an exceptional plot close to Willenhall Town Centre. In need of some improvement works. Offered with no upward chain.

## Foster Street, Wednesbury



**£110,000**

REDUCED TO £110,000! A well presented three bedroom end-terrace home with an impressive double garage to the rear. Benefiting from refitted kitchen and bathroom. A viewing is essential!!! Viewings by appointment. Call us to view today!!

## Waite Road, Willenhall



**£115,000**

An extended three bedroom semi detached home presented in immaculate order. Benefiting from many upgrades and improvements by the present owner a viewing is absolutely essential!!!

## Bader Road, Walsall



**£110,000**

NEW

A three bedroom semi-detached home situated in a cul-de-sac location in Bentley close to Jct. 10 M6. Benefiting from a spacious kitchen/diner and presented in good order. Further benefits are utility room and downstairs WC.

## Pugh Crescent, Walsall



**£80,000**

A well presented three bedroom semi detached home benefiting from conservatory, garage and driveway. A viewing is absolutely essential to appreciate the level of accommodation on offer.

## Brokeridge Close, Willenhall



**£300,000**

A "Showhome" style five bedroom, two bathroom detached home situated on a corner plot with detached double garage. Refurbished to an extremely high specification with great attention to detail by the current owners. This property comprises of five bedrooms, dining room, Cloakroom, side gardens, bathroom detached double garage and breakfast kitchen. "Call Dixons on 01902 634497 to arrange a viewing"

## Wellington Terrace, Wellington Place



**£59,950**

A two bedroom terraced property with no chain, in need of some modernisation. Briefly comprises two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room and a bathroom.

## Bloxwich Road North, Willenhall



**£300,000**

A beautifully presented traditional style three bedroom detached residence. Benefiting from planning permission granted to extend allowing for a further bedroom with en-suite, larger kitchen/diner, utility room and a spacious sitting room. Plans are available to view at Dixons, Short Heath. No upward chain!!! Viewings are essential!!! "Call Dixons on 01902 634497 to arrange a viewing"

**auction  
HOUSE**  
EDWARDS MOORE

**Estate House, Darwall Street,  
Walsall WS1 1DA  
01922 615222**

**Auction**  
Wednesday 10th  
October at 6.30pm  
precisely  
**Venue**  
Banks's Stadium, Bescot  
Crescent, Walsall

**For Sale by public auction on  
Wednesday 10th October @ 6.30pm.**

To be held at Banks's Stadium Bescot Crescent, Walsall,  
WS1 4SA (Subject to prior sale and conditions)



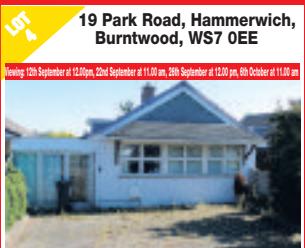
Viewing: Saturday 15th September at 12.00 pm, Wednesday 19th September at 11.00 am, Saturday 29th September at 12.00 pm and Wednesday 3rd October at 11.00 am

Guide Price £130,000-£150,000



Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 0121-289-3838

Guide Price £28,000-£38,000



Viewing: 12th September at 12.00pm, 22nd September at 11.00 am, 26th September at 12.00 pm, 6th October at 11.00 am

Guide Price £90,000-£100,000



Viewing: 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th September and 5th October all at 12.15pm

Guide Price £65,000-£75,000



Freehold land situated just off Birmingham Road as described in office copy entry title number WM25071 which consists of an adopted road together with two small plots, one being 1.112 acres and 3 Cricket Close, the other being 0.001 acres and 11 Cricket Close. These potential rights of way lead to allotments which are currently unused and one of these access points needs to be retained.

Guide Price £10,000-£15,000



Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 01922 615222

Guide Price £55,000-£65,000



Viewing: 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th September and 5th October all at 10.30 am

Purpose built first floor studio flat set in a popular residential development comprising Lounge, Kitchen, Shower Room.  
Guide Price £28,000-£34,000



Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 0121 289 3838

A traditional style mid terraced house. The property offers spacious family accommodation and comprises of the following: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen Three Bedrooms, Box Room, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Garden.  
Guide Price £100,000-£120,000



Viewing: Wednesday 12th September at 11.00 am, Saturday 22nd September at 12.00 pm, Wednesday 26th September at 11.00 am and Saturday 6th October at 12.00 pm

A two bedroom link detached bungalow with garage in convenient location. Enclosed Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Inner Hallway, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Dining Room, Kitchen, Garage, Fore and Rear Gardens.  
Guide Price £90,000-£110,000



Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneer on 0121 289 3838

A well appointed two bedroom detached bungalow, conveniently located and comprising: Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate W.C., Fore and Rear Gardens, Utility Store.  
Guide Price £70,000-£90,000



Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 01922 615222

Guide Price £150,000-£160,000



Viewing: 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th September and 5th October all at 9.45 am

Guide Price £70,000-£80,000



Viewing: 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th September and 5th October all at 12.45pm

Guide Price £100,000-£120,000



Viewing: 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th September and 5th October all at 11.00 am

Guide Price £45,000-£55,000



Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers on 0121 289 3838

This traditionally styled semi detached property is in need of full modernisation and improvement and is situated in a popular and sought after residential area and offers tremendous scope and improvement. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Rear Living Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Rear Gardens.  
Guide Price £50,000-£60,000



[www.auctionhouse.uk.net](http://www.auctionhouse.uk.net)  
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www. **skipton** **net**



**WALSALL**  
**MOORSIDE GARDENS**  
• Pleasantly appointed first floor flat  
• Surprising spacious accommodation  
• Two bedrooms  
• Gas central heating  
• UPVC double glazed windows  
• Off lounge  
**£79,950 OFFERS**



**WEDNESFIELD, OFF BROAD LANE SOUTH**  
**BRACKENWOOD DRIVE**  
• Immaculately presented modern style detached property  
• Beautiful enclosed rear garden with paved patio  
• Three bedrooms  
• First floor shower room  
**£174,995 OFFERS**



**WEDNESFIELD**  
**BROAD LANE NORTH**  
• Pleasantly appointed semi detached property  
• Views over local fields to the rear  
• Three bedrooms  
• 17ft lounge  
**£139,950 OFFERS**



**COPPIE FARM**  
**MILES MEADOW CLOSE**  
• Pleasantly appointed modern style link detached  
• Three bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes  
• UPVC double glazing, gas  
**NOW OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £145,000**



**WILLENHALL**  
**PRINCETHORPE ROAD**  
• Superbly appointed spacious modern end town house style property  
• Fitted central heating, UPVC double glazing  
• Three four bedrooms  
• Ground floor lounge/occasional bedroom four  
• Splendid UPVC double glazed conservatory  
**£154,995 OFFERS**



**OFF OVERDALE DRIVE, WALSALL**  
**CONDOVER CLOSE**  
• Pleasantly appointed semi detached property  
• Two reception rooms  
• Three bedrooms  
• Gas central heating  
• UPVC double glazed windows  
**£144,950 NO CHAIN**



**WILLENHALL**  
**ALTON AVENUE**  
• Superbly appointed modern style semi detached property  
• Three bedrooms  
• Two reception rooms  
• Fitted breakfast kitchen including oven and hob  
• Garage and enclosed rear garden  
**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £150,000 NO CHAIN**



**SUMMER HAYES**  
**LUDLOW CLOSE**  
• Splendidly appointed link detached bungalow set in private drive position  
• Two bedrooms  
• Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows  
• Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory  
**£165,000 REDUCED FOR LIMITED PERIOD ONLY**



**NEW INVENTION**  
**STRETTON ROAD**  
• Pleasant semi detached property  
• Two bedrooms  
• Gas central heating  
• Part UPVC double glazed windows  
• Lounge with French doors to the rear garden  
• 19ft dining kitchen  
**£104,950 IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE**



**COPPIE FARM**  
**BOWNESS GROVE**  
• Superb modern detached residence  
• Cid-de-sac position  
• Three generous bedrooms  
• En-suite shower room  
• Excellent fitted kitchen including oven and hob  
• Garage and enclosed rear garden  
**£188,500**



**SUMMER HAYES**  
**CASTLE DRIVE**  
• Pleasantly appointed detached property  
• Decent size spacious versatile accommodation  
• Three bedrooms, two en-suites, downstairs bedroom four  
• Garage and enclosed rear garden  
**NOW £169,500 NO CHAIN**

**WANTED**  
BUNGALOWS  
VALUED UP TO  
£150,000 IN ALL  
AREAS FOR  
WAITING  
BUYERS



**ESSINGTON**  
**SEYND LANE**  
• Traditional style extended detached bungalow  
• Much requested location  
• Potential to extend (subject to planning permission)  
• Two bedrooms  
**£257,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



**HADLEY HEATH, WILLENHALL**  
**FAWLEY CLOSE**  
• Pleasant improved modern style semi  
• Fitted with feature fireplace  
• Two bedrooms  
• Gas central heating  
• UPVC double glazed windows  
**£106,500**



**WILLENHALL**  
**WEDNESFIELD ROAD**  
• Pleasantly appointed Victorian style end terrace  
• Two bedrooms  
• Upstairs bathroom with shower  
• Two reception rooms  
**NOW £79,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



**COPPIE FARM**  
**BUTTERMERE GROVE**  
• Pleasantly appointed town house  
• Generous rear garden  
• Gas central heating  
• UPVC double glazing  
• Fitted dining kitchen with  
integrated oven, hob and pantry  
• Excellent refitted bathroom with shower over the bath  
• Enclosed rear garden with paved patio  
• Off road parking  
**£114,950**



**NEW INVENTION**  
**WRIGHTON CLOSE**  
• Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached residence  
• Conservatory (extending 4th bed off kitchen)  
• Three bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobes  
• 24ft extended lounge and separate sitting/dining room  
• Integrated oven, hob and pantry  
• Fitted bathroom with separate shower  
• Enclosed rear garden with paved patio  
• Off road parking  
**£137,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



**SUMMER HAYES**  
**PERRY HALL DRIVE**  
• Decently spacious semi detached property  
• Conservatory (extending 4th bed off kitchen)  
• Three bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobes  
• Refitted kitchen with integrated appliances  
• Refitted bathroom with separate shower  
• Enclosed rear garden with paved patio  
• Off road parking  
**NOW OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £155,000**



**ESSINGTON**  
**BUTTERMERE DRIVE**  
• A superb extended modern style detached residence  
• Four bedrooms, en-suite shower room  
• Conservatory, study/office  
• Enclosed rear garden  
• Wall equipped extended dining kitchen  
• UPVC double glazed windows  
**WAS £269,950 NOW £259,500 OFFERS**



**COPPIE FARM**  
**KINGFISHER GROVE**  
• Pleasantly appointed modern style detached property  
• Three bedrooms, en-suite shower room  
• Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory  
• Fitted kitchen and utility rooms  
• Excellent rear garden  
• Gas central heating  
• UPVC double glazed windows  
**£184,500 OFFERS FOR QUICK SALE**



**WILLENHALL**  
**BARMOUTH CLOSE**  
• Pleasant semi detached property  
• Three bedrooms  
• Gas central heating system  
• UPVC double glazed windows  
• Excellent potential to improve  
**£124,995**



**COPPIE FARM**  
**GURNARD CLOSE**  
• Pleasantly appointed modern style semi detached residence  
• Two bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobes  
• Conservatory (extending 4th bed off kitchen)  
• Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances  
• Fitted bathroom with separate shower  
• Enclosed rear garden with paved patio  
• Off road parking  
**£114,950**



**COPPIE FARM**  
**KESTREL GROVE**  
• Pleasantly appointed modern style semi detached residence  
• Two bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobes  
• Conservatory (extending 4th bed off kitchen)  
• Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances  
• Fitted bathroom with separate shower  
• Enclosed rear garden with paved patio  
• Off road parking  
**£130,000 OFFERS, IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE**



**NEW INVENTION**  
**SQUIRES GROVE**  
• Well appointed modern style town house  
• Three bedrooms  
• Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing  
• Enclosed rear garden  
• Off road parking to the fore  
**£136,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



**WILLENHALL**  
**HIGH ROAD**  
• Spacious modern style detached residence  
• Four bedrooms  
• En-suite shower room  
• Gas central heating  
• Off road parking  
**NOW £185,000**



**WILLENHALL**  
**SANDBEDS ROAD**  
• Edwardian style detached residence  
• Generous plot with parking & two garages  
• Lounge and separate dining room  
• Fitted breakfast kitchen with selected appliances  
• Block paved driveway  
• Dining room and 20ft extended lounge  
**WAS £289,950 NOW £279,950**



**DARLASTON**  
**WOLVERHAMPTON STREET**  
• Spacious first floor flat in convenient location  
• Two bedrooms  
• Gas warm air central heating, upvc double glazed windows  
**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £56,000, NO CHAIN**



**NEW INVENTION**  
**TAVERNS CLOSE**  
• Pleasantly appointed modern style semi detached residence  
• One bedroom  
• En-suite bathroom with shower  
• Lounge and separate sun room  
**£87,950 OFFERS**



**COPPIE FARM**  
**LOCHALSH GROVE**  
• Modern style detached family residence  
• Four bedrooms  
• En-suite shower room  
• Gas central heating  
• Internal viewing recommended  
**£194,500**

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**ESSINGTON  
CRANTOCK CLOSE**

- Pleasantly appointed detached family residence
- Four bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority UPVC double glazed windows

**£235,000 VIEWING RECOMMENDED****NEW INVENTION  
GLAMIS ROAD**

- Pleasantly appointed link detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

**£164,950 OFFERS****WILLENHALL  
WAITE ROAD**

- Pleasant traditional style semi-detached property
- Four bedrooms
- Part UPVC double glazed windows
- Generous lawned rear garden
- Block paved driveway

**£107,950 OFFERS****COPPICE FARM  
HIGHMOOR CLOSE**

- Modern style semi-detached on generous corner plot
- Potential to extend (subject to planning permission)
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing

**£124,950 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED****COPPICE FARM  
BUTTERMERE GROVE**

- Superbly appointed extended modern detached property
- Spacious five bedroom family accommodation
- Two reception rooms
- Office/occasional bedroom 6

**£289,950 OFFERS, VIEWING ESSENTIAL****WILLENHALL  
CLOTHIER STREET**

- Spacious Victorian style end terrace
- Kitchen property in convenient location
- Two bedrooms
- Upstairs bathroom
- Two reception rooms

**£89,500 NO CHAIN****SNEYD PARK  
RADSTOCK ROAD**

- Splendidly appointed improved semi-detached house
- Three bedrooms, all with wardrobes
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- Superb refitted breakfast kitchen with oven & hob

**£149,500 VIEWING ESSENTIAL****COPPICE FARM  
SNOWDON WAY**

- Refitted bathroom with shower
- Lounge and separate dining room
- Loft room with Velux and drop down ladder
- Garage and pleasant garden to the rear

**£215,000****COPPICE FARM  
BUTTERMERE GROVE**

- Extended modern style end town house
- Four bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority double glazed windows

**£140,000****BENTLEY, WALSALL  
BADER ROAD**

- Pleasant improved semi-detached property
- Ideal first time purchase
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating

**£97,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN****WILLENHALL, OFF STROUD AVE  
LYNDYE CLOSE**

- U-shaped refitted dining kitchen
- Refitted bathroom with shower
- UPVC single glazed windows
- Viewing recommended

**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £140,000****WILLENHALL  
ALAMEIN ROAD**

- Traditional style town house
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

**NOW £96,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN****SOLD  
Subject to  
contract**

- Pleasantly appointed link detached bungalow
- Two bedrooms, one with fitted wardrobes
- Two reception rooms
- En-suite shower room

**£230,000****REDUCED**

- Pleasant modern style two bedroom bungalow
- Delightful cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

**NOW OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £115,000, NO CHAIN****COPPICE FARM  
TORRIDON ROAD**

- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted dining kitchen inc oven & hob
- Cul-de-sac position
- Four bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows

**£170,000****NEW INVENTION  
FIVE FIELDS ROAD**

- Spacious extended traditional style semi-detached residence
- Three bedrooms, all with wardrobes
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms

**£179,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN****WILLENHALL  
HILL ROAD**

- 20ft extended kitchen/diner
- Large extended rear garden
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms

**£115,000 OFFERS****SUMMER HAYES  
FARBROOK WAY**

- Pleasant semi-detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Bathroom with shower

**£130,000 OFFERS****ESSINGTON  
SHERRINGHAM DRIVE**

- Pleasantly appointed link detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing

**£179,995 OPEN TO OFFERS****NEW INVENTION  
SQUIRES GROVE**

- Well appointed modern style town house
- Fully fitted refitted kitchen including oven and hob
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing
- En-suite shower room
- Established south facing rear garden

**£136,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN****WILLENHALL  
ASHMORE LAKE ROAD**

- Conveniently located two bedroom detached bungalow
- In need of some internal modernisation
- Two reception rooms
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Off road parking to the fore

**£100,000 NO CHAIN****BENTLEY, WALSALL  
CUNNINGHAM ROAD**

- Pleasantly appointed extended semi-detached property
- Three bedrooms, all with wardrobes
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Spacious 19ft through lounge

**£110,000 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED****NEW INVENTION  
BALMORAL DRIVE**

- Extended sun room
- Breakfast kitchen/utility room
- Upstairs shower room
- Large rear garden
- Ideal for a first time purchaser or a young family
- Lounge and dining room
- Side entry with utility room/cloakroom
- Upstairs bathroom with shower fitting
- Pleasant established rear garden

**NOW £125,000 OFFERS**

**www.skiptons.net**

**Willenhall 01902 631151****Walsall/Bloxwich area 01922 689016****Wednesfield 01902 732324****Tipton 0121 520 2255****Wednesbury 0121 505 1818****Bilston 01902 353578****Sedgley 01902 686868**

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# L & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



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| <b>CIRCUIT CLOSE, WILLENHALL</b><br>Ground Floor Studio Apartment Comprising Of Lounge/Bedroom, Kitchen, Shower Room And W/C. The Property Also Benefits From UPVC D/Glazing And Electric Wall Heaters, Allocated Parking.<br>£325 PCM   | <b>VICTORIA STREET, WILLENHALL</b><br>Two Bed Mid-Terrace Property Comprising Of Two Reception Rooms, Good Sized Breakfast Kitchen With Integrated Appliances, Two Double Bedrooms And A Large Family Bathroom With Shower, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Small Foregarden And A Good Sized Rear Garden.<br>£475 PCM | <b>RUGELEY AVENUE, NEW INVENTION</b><br>Two Bed Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Large Through Lounge/Diner, Extended Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Modern Family Bathroom With Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Small Foregarden And A Private Enclosed Rear Garden With Brick Built Store.<br>£500 PCM | <b>WELLINGTON COURT, WILLENHALL</b><br>Modern Two Bed Townhouse Over Three Floors Comprising Of Groundfloor W/C, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, First Floor Has A Good Sized Bedroom & Family Bathroom, Second Floor Has Master Bedroom With Walk In Wardrobe, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Small Foregarden And A Private Enclosed Rear Garden With Brick Built Store.<br>£500 PCM | <b>FURZEBANK WAY, WILLENHALL</b><br>Three Bed Semi Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Good Sized Lounge, Separate Dining Room/Sitting Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Double Length Driveway, Garage.<br>£575 PCM                               | <b>PRINCETHORPE ROAD, WILLENHALL</b><br>Spacious Three Bedroom Three Storey Modern Town House Having Kitchen/Diner, Lounge, Three Generous Bedrooms, Two En-Suites, Shower Room, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Garage And Driveway.<br>£625 PCM   | <b>LODGE STREET, WILLENHALL</b><br>Modern Three Bed Detached Property Having Lounge, Modern Kitchen Diner, Three Bedrooms, Master Having An En-Suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom With A Jacuzzi Bath, All Bedrooms And Stairs Will Be Fitted With New Carpets, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating.<br>£650 PCM | <b>NORTON GREEN LANE, NORTON</b><br>Three Bed Detached Bungalow Having Lounge, Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Bathroom With Whirlpool Bath, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Large Frontage Offering Ample Off Road Parking For Several Vehicles And A Good Sized Rear Garden.<br>£695 PCM |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>BRERETON RD, NEW INVENTION</b><br>A Modern And Spacious Second Floor Flat Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Balcony, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Communal Garden. MUST VIEW.<br>£69,995                                       | <b>RYDAL CLOSE, WEDNESFIELD</b><br>Well Presented One Bedroom First Floor Maisonette Comprising Of Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden.<br>£69,995  | <b>REMINGTON ROAD, BEECHDALE</b><br>Large Three Bedroom Mid Terrace, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Double Bedroom, Modern Fitted Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden. Ideal Buy To Let Or First Time Buy.<br>£79,950 ONO  | <b>LOWE AVENUE, DARLASTON</b><br>End Terraced Property Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Two Single Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating Rear Garden & Driveway.<br>£84,995  | <b>WESTERN AVENUE, BENTLEY</b><br>Three Bedroomed Mid Terrace Property. The Property Comprises Of Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, W/C, Three Bedrooms And A Family Bathroom. The Property Also Benefits From Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating.<br>£84,995                                       | <b>BENTLEY LANE, WILLENHALL</b><br>A Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Property In Need Of Some Modernisation. Comprising Of Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, W/C, Rear Lean To, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Garage, Majority Double Glazing, Central Heating And Driveway.<br>£89,995                                      | <b>SQUIRES GROVE, WILLENHALL</b><br>Well Presented Modern First Floor Apartment In A Sought After Location. Having Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, En-Suite, Electric Heating, D/Glazing, Allocated Parking.<br>£89,995   | <b>KING EDWARD STREET, DARLASTON</b><br>Well Presented Two Bed Mid Terrace, Two Reception Rooms, Double Bedroom, Family Bathroom, En-Suite, Double Bedrooms, First Floor W/C, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Private Rear Garden.<br>£87,995   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>STAFFORD ROAD, DARLASTON</b><br>New Build Two Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge/Reception Area, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor WC, First Floor Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden, Ideal First Time Buy, Two Available.<br>£89,995                                  | <b>LATIMER STREET, WILLENHALL</b><br>Spacious Semi Detached Property Located Close To Willenhall Town Centre. The Property Comprises Of Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area, Downstairs W/C, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Detached Garage & Generous Garden.<br>£92,995 ONO                | <b>RUDGE CLOSE, WILLENHALL</b><br>Well Presented And Extended Three Bed Mid Townhouse Having UPVC Entrance Porch, Modern Fitted Kitchen Diner, Two Reception Rooms, Three Bedrooms And Shower Room, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden.<br>£99,500   | <b>KENNEDY CRESCENT, DARLASTON</b><br>Well Presented Three Bed Semi Having Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Downstairs Bathroom, Three Good Sized Bedroom, Upstairs W/C, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Off Road Parking.<br>£99,995 ONO  | <b>DEVON ROAD, WILLENHALL</b><br>Immaculately Presented Two Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, Off Road Parking. Great First Time Buy. Must View.<br>£104,995   | <b>CHATSWORTH CLOSE, WILLENHALL</b><br>Well Presented Modern Two Bed Semi Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath, Detached Garage, Driveway, UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating.<br>£115,995  | <b>LICHFIELD RD, WEDNESFIELD</b><br>Traditional Three Terraced Comprising Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Open Plan Kitchen Diner/Sitting Room, Conservatory, Spacious Bathroom And Three Good Sized Bedrooms, C/Heating, UPVC D/Glazing.<br>£117,995  | <b>STUBBY LANE, WEDNESFIELD</b><br>Well Presented Three Bed Traditional Semi, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Family Bathroom, Double Length Driveway, Large Rear Garden, Popular Location.<br>£119,995   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>QUEENS LEA, WILLENHALL</b><br>Immaculately Presented Extended Three Bed Mid Terrace, Spacious Through Lounge, Open Plan Breakfast Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Groundfloor W/C, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden And Tarmacadam Driveway.<br>£124,995 | <b>CHATSWORTH CL, WILLENHALL</b><br>Immaculately Presented Extended Three Bed Mid Terrace, Spacious Through Lounge, Open Plan Breakfast Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Groundfloor W/C, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Enclosed Rear Garden.<br>£124,995                                    | <b>RADSTOCK RD, NEW INVENTION</b><br>Two Bed Semi, Having Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen With Breakfast Bar, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Detached Garage, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Sought After Location.<br>£129,995   | <b>WILLENHALL STREET, DARLASTON</b><br>Well Presented Four Bedroom Extended Semi, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility, W/C, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway, Garage.<br>£134,995  | <b>LICHFIELD RD, NEW INVENTION</b><br>Two/Three Bed Much Improved Semi Detached Having Lounge, Spacious Modern Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, Groundfloor W/C, Groundfloor Bed/Three Study, Two Double Bedrooms Upstairs & Stylish Reffited Shower Room, D/Glazing, C/Heating And Crete Print Driveway, Garage.<br>£139,995 | <b>RADSTOCK RD, NEW INVENTION</b><br>Three Bedroom Semi, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Fitted Bathroom, Two Receptions, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Crete Print Driveway, Garage.<br>£142,000  | <b>JOHN RILEY DRIVE, WILLENHALL</b><br>Well Presented Detached Property, Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room And Garage (storey only), UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And A Full Width Driveway.<br>£147,500   | <b>ADA WRIGHTON CL, NEW INV</b><br>Immaculately Presented Three Bed Link Detached Having Entrance Hallway, Downstairs W/C, Large Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room And Garage (storey only), UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And A Full Width Driveway.<br>£147,995   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
| <b>CANNOCK RD, NEW INVENTION</b><br>Detached Property Having Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Three Bedrooms, Double Garage, And Large Gardens. The Property Also Benefits From C/Heating And D/Glazing.<br>£149,950   | <b>HARPER STREET, WILLENHALL</b><br>A Modern Three Storey Three Bed Townhouse Having Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor W/C, Spacious Lounge, Double Bedroom, Shower Room To The First Floor, Master Bedroom And Large Bathoom On The Second Floor, C/Heating & D/Glazing, Garage.<br>£149,995                      | <b>FIVE FIELDS ROAD, WILLENHALL</b><br>... OPEN VIEWING...<br>SAT 15/09/12<br>12pm-3pm<br>SUN 16/09/12<br>11am-1pm<br>Refurbished Three Bed Semi, Two Reception Rooms, Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage, Driveway.<br>£155,995   | <b>PRINCETHORPE RD, WILLENHALL</b><br>Spacious Three Bedroom Three Storey Modern Town House Having Fitted Kitchen, Groundfloor W/C, Spacious Lounge, Conservatory, Utility, Three Double Bedrooms, Two En-Suites, Shower Room, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Driveway, App 200ft Rear Garden.<br>£150,000   | <b>SNEYD LANE, ESSINGTON</b><br>Three Bed Detached Property, Two Receptions, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Rooms, Ground Floor W/C, Re-Fitted Family Bathroom, Part DG, GCH, Two Garages, Substantial Plot. •Planning Pending For Five Bed Extension.<br>£172,000  | <b>COPPIE LANE, SHORT HEATH</b><br>Immaculately Presented Deceptively Spacious, Detached Bungalow Having Lounge, Large Double Bed Room, Separate Kitchen, Three Double Bedrooms, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Landscaped Rear Garden Large Block Paved Driveway. MUST VIEW.<br>£179,995 | <b>DINGLE LANE, WILLENHALL</b><br>Three Bed Detached Property Having Lounge, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating, Driveway & App 160ft Private Rear Garden.<br>£179,995  | <b>AMPLEFORTH DRIVE, WILLENHALL</b><br>A Detached Four Bedroom With Entrance Hall, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility, Two Reception Rooms, Family Bathroom, Garage And Driveway, Rear Garden.<br>£209,995 ONO   | <b>MILL LANE, WILLENHALL</b><br>Spacious Detached Bungalow Having Larger Than Average Rear Garden And Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Spacious Entrance Hallway, Double Bed Room, Two Double Bed Rooms, En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Also Benefiting From C/Heating D/Glazing, Double Garage, Driveway And Generous Garden, Private Gated Access.<br>£219,995 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
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The Austin Mini was launched in 1959 and 5.4 million vehicles were sold over 41 years

## Iconic Mini is voted the best car made in Britain

THE original Mini has been voted the greatest British car ever made in a poll by Autocar readers.

The Mini beat opposition from the original Range Rover, which was launched in 1970, and the Jaguar E-Type, which was launched in 1961 and drew votes on the grounds of beauty, function and value.

The Austin Mini was launched in

1959 and notched up 5.4 million sales during its 41-year lifetime. Autocar's editor-in-chief Steve Cropley says: "The Mini had many faults and was never profitable, but it rewrote the rules and had the biggest impact on Britain's car industry that any car has had. It was one of the most remarkable cars ever built, what with its 10ft length, revolutionary drive-train and gearbox and its ultra-compact sus-

pension." The poll was conducted to coincide with the announcement that Britain's car manufacturing output is set to eclipse its highest levels by 2015, thanks to massive investment from car makers in the country.

In total, more than two million cars are expected to be built in Britain in 2015, according to figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers – more than the 1.92 million made in Britain's car-making heyday in 1970.

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|--|-----------|-------------------------|------------|
| 36 Monthly Payments (Duration 37 mths)                     | £129.40   | Option to Purchase Fee  | £65        |
| On The Road Price (Cash price)                             | £12,055*  | Credit Acceptance Fee   | £125       |
| Customer Deposit   | £3,719.25 | Total Amount Payable    | £13,333.78 |
| Deposit including £500 contribution                        | £4,219.25 | Interest Rate per Annum | 6.05%      |
| Final Payment (inc Option to Purchase Fee)                 | £4,456.13 | Representative APR      | 6.9%       |

| REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE – CIVIC 1.4 i-VTEC SE MANUAL |           | Total Amount of Credit  | £11,922.74 |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|------------|
| 36 Monthly Payments (Duration 37 mths)              | £199      | Option to Purchase Fee  | £65        |
| On The Road Price (Cash price)                      | £17,455*  | Credit Acceptance Fee   | £125       |
| Customer Deposit                                    | £4,032.26 | Total Amount Payable    | £19,399.39 |
| Deposit including £1,500 contribution               | £5,532.26 | Interest Rate per Annum | 6.05%      |
| Final Payment (inc Option to Purchase Fee)          | £6,703.13 | Representative APR      | 6.9%       |

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| REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE – CR-V 2.0 EX ind. metallic paint |           | Total Amount of Credit  | £16,913.00 |
|--|-----------|-------------------------|------------|
| 36 Monthly Payments (Duration 37 mths)                   | £283.51   | Option to Purchase Fee  | £65        |
| On The Road Price (Cash price)                           | £28,540*  | Credit Acceptance Fee   | £125       |
| Customer Deposit   | £7,607.00 | Total Amount Payable    | £28,766.79 |
| Deposit including £1,500 contribution                    | £9,107.00 | Interest Rate per Annum | 6.05%      |
| Final Payment (inc Option to Purchase Fee)               | £9,453.43 | Representative APR      | 6.9%       |

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Model shown: Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC ES Manual in Alabaster Silver. Metallic at £14,200 including metallic paint. Terms and Conditions: New retail Jazz and Jazz Hybrid registrations (excluding Jazz GH) from 2 July to 30 September 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the final payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due. The vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. \*On The Road price includes metallic paint. Model shown: Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual in Alabaster Silver. Metallic at £17,455 including metallic paint and saving of £2,520 on retail. On The Road price. Terms & Conditions: New retail Civic registrations from 2 July to 30 September 2012. Offers applicable at participating Dealers and are at the Promoter's absolute discretion. Complimentary upgrade: CR-V EX models available for the On The Road price of equivalent ES-T model - discount of £2,520 inc VAT will be applied to retail invoice. Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the final payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due. The vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. \*On The Road price includes metallic paint. CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE.

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The new Toyota Auris has seen major changes, including body styling and the car's interior

## New-look Toyota to be unveiled at Paris show

TOYOTA will give the new Auris its first public appearance at the Paris Motor Show.

The most obvious change is the updated styling, including Toyota's new 'face' and more angular rear lights, which look very much like the units on the Hyundai i30.

The Auris has come in for criticism over its life but the new model aims to change that with a much-improved interior, sharper styling and a more cleverly packaged interior.

A Toyota insider was quoted as saying the new model's interior look, feel and outright quality is a 'quantum

leap' ahead of the outgoing one.

To make the new cabin feel much more upmarket than before, Toyota has paid special attention to the 'sensory quality' of the cabin and has worked in tiny detail to achieve a sense of visual unity by using consistent lighting, colours and finishes.

Full hybrid, diesel and petrol versions of the Derbyshire-built car will be produced, with the spread of the range expected to be broadly similar to the current line-up. Expect a choice including a 1.4-litre diesel, a 1.3-litre petrol and a 1.6-litre petrol.

Weight management has been a key part of Toyota's development of the

Auris, and unnecessary bulk has been cut out at every chance to reduce the car's weight by around 40kg depending on the model.

To enhance efficiency, special attention has been paid to aerodynamics.

A 55mm reduction in the height of the all-new bodyshell helps achieve a low drag coefficient of 0.28; excellent for the class and down from 0.29 for the Auris it replaces.

On-sale dates, UK prices and full specifications will be released at an as-yet unspecified date after the Paris show.

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SX4 4x4 1.6 petrol official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban 34.4 (8.2), extra urban 51.4 (5.5), combined 43.5 (6.5). Official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 149g/km. SX4 4x4 2.0 diesel official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban 42.8 (6.6), extra urban 60.1 (4.7), combined 53.3 (5.3). Official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 139g/km.

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The BMW X3 is now available in rear-wheel-drive – the sDrive18d costs £28,580 for the entry level

## Rear-wheel-drive model of BMW sports utility vehicle

BMW's X3 medium-sized SUV is now available in rear-wheel-drive's Drive18d's guise, with a lower price, a lower CO2 output and higher fuel economy than ever before.

Until now, the X3 had been available only in 'xDrive' four-wheel-drive form, but the new arrival gives buyers a more frugal and more accessible option if the benefits of four driven wheels don't apply to them.

The well-known 141bhp, 266lb/ft diesel engine can be mated to a six-

speed manual or an eight-speed automatic gearbox, with CO2 and economy figures for the manual recorded at 135g/km and 55.4mpg; 14g/km and 4mpg better than the more powerful xDrive20d.

Priced at £28,580 on the road, the entry-level sDrive18d undercuts the existing range by nearly £3,000 and is likely to be especially popular with fleet buyers.

It will slot into the base of the range but will conform to its predefined norms, being made available in SE and M Sport trim lines.

Apart from Hill Descent Control,

which is only available for four-wheel-drive X3 models, the new model matches the xDrive20d's kit list in all areas.

SE models feature engine stop-start technology, Drive Performance Control, 17in alloy wheels, Nevada leather upholstery and BMW iDrive with a 6.5in colour screen.

M Sport models have a host of sporty additions, such as 18in alloy wheels, M Sport bodywork, sports seats and sports suspension.

The sDrive18d is the fourth diesel model in the X3 range, alongside the xDrive20d, 30d and 35d.

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The new Volvo V40 received a top rating of five stars in the NCAP test

# New Volvo sets record in Euro NCAP collision test

THE all-new Volvo V40 has received the top rating of five stars in the Euro NCAP collision test. The overall result is the best ever recorded by the institute.

"A fantastic result. We are very proud to have one of the world's safest cars and we're taking yet another important step toward our 2020 target – that nobody should die or be seriously injured in a new Volvo," says Thomas Broberg, senior technical advisor safety at Volvo Car Corporation.

As of 2009, European safety institute Euro NCAP has presented an overall rating for each car model whose safety it tests. Separate tests are carried out in four different sub-categories, which are then ranked to

produce an overall grade. The four categories are adult occupant protection, child protection, pedestrian protection and safety assist.

It is not only the overall result that is a record-high. The all-new Volvo V40's protection for adults was also the best result ever recorded in a test, no less than 98 per cent.

During the development of the all-new Volvo V40, the goal was to build in the same safety level as in larger cars. The holistic approach, a strong structure and systems such as the WHIPS whiplash protection system form the basis for the excellent result.

In the safety assist category, the Volvo V40 scores maximum points.

"The new Volvo V40 was launched as the most intelligent and the safest car in its segment, and it is truly packed with active safety systems such as auto

brake, Pedestrian Detection to shield pedestrians, Lane Keeping Aid which helps the driver stay within his or her lane, and BLIS which helps the driver detect vehicles in the offset rear 'blind spot,'" says Thomas Broberg.

In the pedestrian protection category too, the Volvo V40 sets a new record. One important factor here is the innovative, unique pedestrian airbag. Sensors in the front of the car detect any contact with a pedestrian.

A pyrotechnical charge releases the bonnet hinges and elevates the bonnet with the help of an airbag.

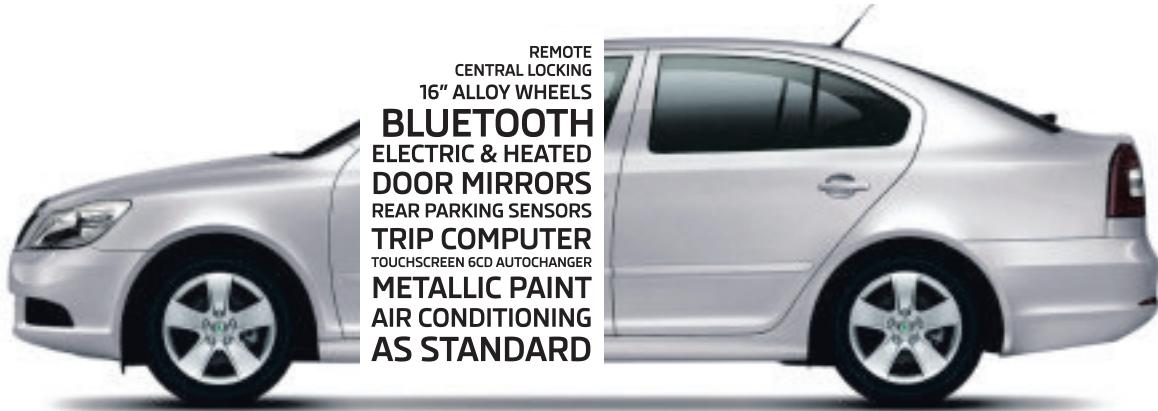
The inflated airbag's cushioning effect combined with the increased distance to the hard components in the engine compartment help protect the pedestrian's head in any impact.

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<sup>†</sup>Base price of £18,650 was available 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012.

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Octavia SE Connect 1.6 TDI CR 105PS: Urban 49.6 (5.7), Extra Urban 72.4 (3.9), Combined 62.8 (4.5). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the Octavia SE Connect 1.6 TDI CR 105PS 119g/km.

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# Sometimes it's better to take the soft option

IF all those numbers finally come up and the lottery winnings are secure in the bank account, one of the first things most people would look to do would be buy a new car.

What about suggesting a car for every day of the week because it does appear that this is now possible with the latest incarnation of the Mini Series, writes Bob Hickman.

The new Mini Roadster isn't just a convertible, because Mini already has a four-seater convertible. No, the new Mini Cooper cabriolet is based on the coupe version but it now has the benefit of a soft top which can be stored away for open-top motoring.

This, however, is where convention changes in that this Mini is a pure two-seater; it has lost the two back seats. There isn't even space to put a small child behind the seat, you may be lucky to put a coat or a jumper but that is about it. This is competition for, dare I say it, the ubiquitous Mazda MX-5, even the Audi TT, or other pure two-seater small cars.

Mini has attempted to change the looks of this vehicle to tempt more buyers. After all, when you already have a Mini convertible, you need something slightly different to make people change, and it does have a more stylish look. The roof is lower and the front windscreen is extremely rakish. One big advantage this new vehicle has over its sibling is the fact that it has a very useable boot.

To lower the cabriolet roof you unclip a catch at the front and lift it up and then an electric motor takes it away. This could be an issue for some people. My wife, who is not the strongest of people, had difficulty twisting the mechanism and certainly more difficulty pushing the mechanism up before the electrics took over. That said, once the roof was stored it was a delightful vehicle to drive and to appreciate the joys of open-top motoring.

## Blind spots

I was not keen on the roof-up driving mode, there are an enormous amount of blind spots at the rear, made worse because you don't have the two rear side windows that the four-seater convertible has. However, with the aid of rear parking sensors and time to adapt and be careful when reversing, I suppose I could live with this.

The new cabriolet is available with three petrol engines with a choice of either 121bhp, or 181bhp in the Cooper S which was my test vehicle. This has an alleged top speed of 141mph and a CO<sub>2</sub> emissions figure of 139g/km so it is never going to be in the cheap tax bracket. There is also the fire-breathing 208bhp in the John Cooper Works Special. There will be a two-litre diesel available, but I suspect the Cooper S will be one of the best sellers and it is quite easy to understand why.

The power and the joy of driving this vehicle heralds a return to the days of the hot-hatch, it really is a rewarding vehicle, certainly the gear ratios are perfect and the vehicle eagerly leaps forward no matter which gear was chosen.

But the chassis is extremely taut and on anything other than a reasonably good surface you feel the jolts and jars. It is a very firm ride and I don't really understand why, I have been in thousands of vehicles that handle superbly without this taut, tight suspension.

The driving dynamics are superb, think go-kart if you have ever had the privilege of taking one round the track and you begin to appreciate what the little Mini is like. It holds the road extremely well and at all times the steering was rewarding.

There is some bluster and wind noise when the roof is in the down mode, but that is part of the joy of open-top motoring.

From an interior point of view the dashboard is what you expect on a Mini. The huge dial in the middle has creeping graphics that sneak around telling you how fast you are going. I love the interior lights that give an ambient feel and change colour as you are meandering along your way.

I do not like the switchgear on Minis, I never have done. There is a plethora of 'toggle switches' and you need to put on your glasses to see what each one does - they are over complicated.

Out of the two options, the coupe or the convertible, I prefer the convertible. I always think that the coupe looks as if it should be a tin-top convertible, it looks squat whereas this little two-seater Roadster is a gem, and with prices starting at £18,020 I am convinced that yet another Mini success story is being written.



The Mini Cooper Roadster – competition for the Mazda MX-5 and Audi TT



The Roadster is based on the coupe version. Prices start from £18,020

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• Boarding • Repairs

• Skimming • Floors

• Bathroom Fittings • Artex Covering

Free advice and estimates

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### P B Plastering Services

Rendering, skimming, boarding, dry lining and much more

For a FREE Quote call us on 10 years experience

**01922 860569 or 077544 96465**

**NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL**

## PLASTERING

### C.A. Plastering

#### SPECIALIST PLASTERER

Affordable, Dependable, Reliable

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## PLUMBING & HEATING

### SIM HEATING SOLUTIONS

#### SPECIAL OFFER

Complete central heating installation

A rated Combi boiler, 7 radiators from £1900

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#### DOOR SUPPLIERS AND FITTERS

#### SPECIAL OFFERS!

• 6 Panel white primed doors, supplied and fitted £54.50 each

• 6 x 6 Panel pre-painted doors fully fitted for £375 complete with handles

• NEW! 6x6 Panel pre-painted and plastic coated doors fully fitted only £405!

• External doors supplied and fitted from £210

• Fit only, Paint or Stain available

• Fire doors fitted

• Pine, oak, hardwood doors available

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**PVC NOW AVAILABLE**

**6 Internal Panel Doors Fully Fitted £299**

**Standard sizes apply**

### Woodlands

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- Plastering, Plumbing, Electrical, Carpentry also Tiling and Brickwork
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- Free quotes

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## SPECIALISTS

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### GARAGE DOOR SPECIALISTS

#### M.D. DOOR SERVICES OFFER

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IS YOUR DOOR - difficult or heavy to open? • Locks, springs or cables broken? • No call out charge • Fixed low cost repairs

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**ALL AREAS COVERED**

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Full Prep • Free Quotes

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We repair misty windows, broken down sealed units, repairs to windows, doors & faulty products

'ALL PRODUCTS AT VERY KEEN PRICES'

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- ♦ Loft Ladders
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Queen Square, Cannock, WS11 1ES

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Please contact Dan on 07912 686918.

**SPEED DATING EVENT** Tues Oct 2nd ages 45-65, at The Old Stags Head, Wton. For inquiries + adv booking tel 07576 457372 or [www.whenthemusicstops.com](http://www.whenthemusicstops.com)

**WEEKLY DISCO** For people with physical or learning disabilities. All ages welcome. 07939 000624.

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Fit and active. Car owner. Varied interests. Seeks company of slim, attractive lady of similar age for romance and hopefully leading to a long term relationship.

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out there that would suit me, aged 53 to 60, must be kind and caring like myself. If you want a laugh and lots of fun, lots of love. Then I'm your man. I'm 57.

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## market place

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**SALE! STOCK! SALE!** MASSIVE STOCK CLEARANCE! Up To 50% OFF! Book your Christmas Cycle NOW at sale price or collect anytime. Don't miss this chance to buy quality bike at unbeatable price.

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**£85**

1 aerial into 4 rooms

**£125**

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01543 439095 or

01922 716029

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### house clearances

A ABSOLUTE cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Tel: 07871726499.

A VAN & MAN Removals / Clearances. Any day / any time. 01902 842289 or 07983 704989.

A HOUSE CLEARANCE Full, part & single rubbish removed. Call: 01922 492007.

VAN SELLIOT House Clearances. Buy and sell goods. Furniture / electrical items etc. 01902 842289 or 07983 704989.

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Plasma, LCD TV's from £99  
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Re-Upholstering of Sofas, Dining Furniture, Caravans, Car Retrimmers and more. www.mrbupholstery.co.uk  
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Re-upholstering of modern & antique furniture.

Fabric pieces for you to choose in the comfort of your home. Leather cosmetic repairs, scratches & colour loss. 1

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**MOVERS & VAN** - Dismantle, Load, Transport, Rollers, Removals. Also luxury mini buses. 01902 607679 or 07831 325174.

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**SCAFFOLDERS** required. Must hold CISRS, long term housing projects. Immediate start. Call 01922 748748.

**SUB-CONTRACT BRICKLAYERS** required for new housing development. Contact Fischer Eng Products, Maybrook Trading Estate, Unit 2, Maybrook, Redditch, WR10 7DG. Telephone 01543 371861.

Please contact Robin Nicholls 07860 647579 - Bloor Homes.

## building &amp; construction

**EXPANDING** steel fabrication company, must have experience and will work at our Norton Works.

Contact Fischer Eng Products, Maybrook Trading Estate, Unit 2, Maybrook, Redditch, WR10 7DG. Telephone 01543 371861.

Please contact Robin Nicholls 07860 647579 - Bloor Homes.

**DRIVERS**

**EMPLOYMENT wanted**

**VAN DRIVER**, clean licence for 35 years. Requires full time position. Please telephone 07538 706269.

**ENGINEERING**

**FABRICATORS** required by busy

company, must have experience and will work at our Norton Works.

Contact Fischer Eng Products, Maybrook Trading Estate, Unit 2, Maybrook, Redditch, WR10 7DG. Telephone 01543 371861.

Please contact Robin Nicholls 07860 647579 - Bloor Homes.

## courses



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We offer free Adult Development courses (19+) to help you:  
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These are short courses to help with the basics and boost your confidence. If you would like a qualification we offer a range of courses for unemployed or those affected by redundancy.

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Inc B+E (CARRIER TRAILER),  
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CALL 01902 744726  
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**R.T.I.T.B./I.T.S.S.A.R.  
FORK LIFT TRUCK**

2 day refresher training  
1 day refresher training  
5 day refresher training

**ACTION MIDLANDS LTD**  
01902 730909

## childcare

**EXCEPTIONAL FULL TIME** Lv3 practitioner minimum of 3 years post qualification experience. Tel 01922 453606.

## drivers

**HGV CLASS 1 TIPPER DRIVER.** Must have experience. Good rates of pay. Local / distance work. Call 01922 404505.

## employment wanted

**VAN DRIVER**, clean licence for 35 years. Requires full time position. Please telephone 07538 706269.

## engineering

**FABRICATORS** required by busy

company, must have experience and will work at our Norton

Works.

Contact Fischer Eng Products, Maybrook Trading Estate, Unit 2, Maybrook, Redditch, WR10 7DG. Telephone 01543 371861.

Please contact Robin Nicholls 07860 647579 - Bloor Homes.

**business**

**business services**

## businesses for sale

## VERTICAL BLINDS AND CURTAINS BUSINESS FOR SALE

Established 20 years. Also empty premises for let, ideal for storage or showroom etc. 07404 458201

## businesses for sale

## WANT TO SELL YOUR BUSINESS?

Call John Southern at County Business Sales 01902 766724

## commercial premises sale / let

CITY CENTRE OFFICES. Mailbox, Meeting rooms. 01902 203203. www.infinity-house.co.uk

**OFFICES and Meeting Room Hire** Offices\* Meeting rooms\* Virtual Office and Po. 01902 285505

**OFFICES TO LET** long or short, leasehold, location, car park, 24/7 access, 1 mile from Jct 9 M6 07545 909893.

**TO LET** Modern industrial unit. 4327 Sq Ft. Many uses. ws10 0nq. £350pw ex bills 01902 421216

**plant, machinery & tools**

LOOKING to Import turned & milled blocks, shafts, or components? Mr Chopra 07986 012154

## public &amp; legal notices

TOWN and COUNTRY PLANNING (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

## NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF

## APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

## FOR HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT

Proposed development at:-

Edward Street, Walsall, WS10 8SP 1 to 55 Odd No's and

196 to 230 Even No's

Wolverhampton Road, WS2 8PP/8RQ 140 to 278 Even No's

Dalkeith Street, Walsall, WS2 8QA 2 to 144 and 7 to 109a

Jessel Road, Walsall, WS2 8QX/QZ 2 to 18 Even No's and 1 to 21 Odd No's

Raleigh Street, Walsall, WS2 8QY/QZ 2 to 58 Even No's and 1 to 119 Odd No's

Pargeter Street, Walsall, WS2 8RQ 2 to 116 Even No's and 1 to 91 Odd No's

Pargeter Street, Walsall, WS2 8QR/QS 118-196 Even No's and 105 to 203

Miner Street, Walsall, WS2 8QL/QN 2 to 146 Even No's and 1 to 125 Odd No's

Reedswood Gardens, Walsall, WS2 8RD 19 to 36 consecutive

Cairn Street, Walsall, WS2 8QI 14 to 54 Even No's and 1 to 67 Odd No's and 35 to 131 Odd No's

Bentley Lane, Walsall, WS2 8SR/SS/ST 6 to 120 Even No's and 35 to 131 Odd No's

Derby Street, Walsall, WS2 7BH 1 to 27 Odd No's

Whitehall Street, Walsall, WS1 4AR 8 to 78 Even No's and 15 to 93 Odd No's

2 Villiers Street, Walsall, WS1 4AW

Permission to: Apply External Wall Insulation System, comprising mechanically-fixed phenolic, PIR-modified urethane, expanded polystyrene (EPS) or mineral wool insulation with glassfibre reinforced render coat and render finish,

Any owner\* or tenant\*\* who wishes to make representations about

this application should write to the Council at: Planning and Building Control, The Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG

By: 4th October 2012 (Date giving a period of 21 days beginning with the date of publication, of the notice (as the case may be)

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made by the owner\* or tenant\*\* to the Council about this application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations. Any owner or tenant wishing to make representations should do so at the earliest opportunity.

\* "owner" means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years.

\*\* "tenant" means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

Statement of owners' rights The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property unless there is some provision to the contrary in the planning permission or a lease.

Statement of agricultural tenants' rights The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

"Householder" development means development of a dwellinghouse, or development within the curtilage of such a dwellinghouse, for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse. It does not include a change of use or a change to the number of dwellings in a building.

This application does not mean you will be receiving the works. You must phone Act on Carbon Ltd on 01246 573483 to request a survey. It does not mean you may be entitled to have this work carried out free of charge if you apply within the next 31 days. It is not means tested.

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council.

Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning

Representations can be made online, email: planningservice@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG.

Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

\* 12/40/01/L

Mr Chris Harris

Outline application for two detached dwellings and associated car parking, access, layout and scale for consideration

AT: BUILDER'S MERCHANT YARD, GREEN LANE, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL, WS9 0LN

THE APPLICATION MARKED \* DOES NOT ACCORD WITH THE

PROVISIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE AREA

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FORD C-MAX 1.8 ZETEC S, 57 plate, 12 months Mot, £1,900.00, 07937 254425. Wednesbury

CITROEN SAXO Forte 2001, 65000 miles, Silver, air bag, fsh, Mot 07/09, 1,199 miles, 12 months Mot, £1,900.00, 07145 391730.

FORD FIESTA 1.3 1997(T), 3 door, blue, 71k, pas. 8000 miles, good condition, £1,900.00, 0750 072601.

FORD MONDEO 2001, diesel, blue, 2 months tax, 8 months MoT, good condition, clean and reliable £900.00, 07922 489349.

KIA 01/01/01 01/01/02, 65000 miles, £2,199.00, 0750 072601.

NISSAN MICUNI 5 EUNOS 5, 5 plate, 47,000 miles only, Gold, Tow bar, Excellent condition, 5 months Tax, 6 months Mot, £1,500.00, 01889 881165.

MERCEDES C180 AUTO T0

1995, 73,380 genuine miles, MoT 12/12, tax 07/13, same owner last 14 years with history, clean car, average condition, £6,500.00, 07734 889024.

NISSAN ALMERA TINO

53 plate, 47,000 miles only, Gold, Tow bar, Excellent condition, 5 months Tax, 6 months Mot, £1,500.00, 01889 881165.

MINI COOPER S

3 door, 2007, dark silver, 51,000 miles, full service history, 10 months BMW parts and labour guarantee, Chili pack, sports seats, extra, excellent condition. One previous lady owner, £7,850.

Telephone 01785 242242

or 07887 560183.

MITSUBISHI SPACEREST 06, 1900s, 6dr, FSH, tax Sept, Mot Feb 13, excellent 01902 795 02671.

SUZUKI SWIFT 2002, 9500 miles, 1,199, abs, electric windows, air con, central locking, one owner, alloys, £6,350.00, 01922 403438.

TOYOTA YARIS VVTI 04, 99000 miles, 1,199, economy, excellent condition inside/out. Only 47k, History, any trial, £3,200.00, 07977 624744.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 ACTIVE

2006, 56, 24,000 miles, 1,199, black, 1,199, fsh, very good condition, alloys, air con, CD player, 12 months tax and Mot £2,950.00, 07295 823461.

VA





# SPORT

Sports Desk 01902 319461

## Lockmen find key to move up table

### Darlaston 0 Willenhall Town 5

THE Lockmen went nap to move off the bottom of the West Midlands Premier.

The visitors attacked from the off and could have scored twice in the opening 90 seconds as Josh Edwards saw his effort well-saved and Reece Leek had a shot stopped.

It was little surprise when the visitors took a 14th-minute lead when Mattie Dorgan won a crunching tackle with two defenders before curling a delightful low effort around the keeper.

Two minutes later Harry Rickus doubled the advantage when both he and Leek had shots blocked before his second attempt was volleyed low into the corner.

The Reds should have had a penalty and then hit the bar before stretching their lead when Kyle Parchment pounced on a woefully short back-pass and rounded the keeper before rolling home.

Both Rickus and Parchment could have added to the tally before the latter's 62nd-minute corner was headed home by Rickus.

Leek forced another fine save from Steven Booth before skipper Jamie Fuller had to clear off the line to deny the hosts a goal.

The scoring was rounded off on 90 minutes when Willenhall sub Dean Humpage, saw his header cleared off the line, only for Parchment to thump the rebound home.

## 10-man Star held to draw

### Continental Star 2 Heather St John 2

STAR came close to winning this Midland Football Alliance encounter, despite being reduced to 10 men.

They took the lead on nine minutes through Aaron Garvey but in the 18th minute centre-half Josh O'Garrow was judged to have pulled back Heather striker Michael Brown, and was sent off.

Brown scored the resulting penalty, but the hosts' lead was restored by full-back Natty Brown. Davion Hamilton came close to adding a third goal for Star but was only denied by brilliant goalkeeping.

Richard Lewis equalised for the visitors on 65 minutes.

Continental are in FA Vase action tomorrow when they travel to Southam United in the second qualifying round.



Karen Carney and Andy Butler at the Banks's Stadium

## On the rise

Another win for happy Saddlers

**Page 55**



## The late show

Rush of points lifts Walsall's rugby men

**Page 55**

e-mail: [chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk)

## Karen ready for crucial match

### Football

ENGLAND women's star Karen Carney has called on fans to make it a big crowd at the Banks's Stadium for their crucial Euro 2013 qualifier.

England need a victory over Croatia on Wednesday (September 19, 5pm) to ensure automatic progress, or will face a play-off.

Carney, of Birmingham City, said:

"It's a really important game for us.

"If we win it we qualify for the Euros and that would be another opportunity for us to promote women's football, so a big crowd at Walsall could help us."

Birmingham-born Carney is relishing the chance to play for England so close to home.

"It's great for me to be playing for my country so close to where I live,"

she said. "I have played there twice before. It's a great stadium, they've got a great pitch and I'm looking forward to going there again. Hopefully we can get the three points we need to make it to the Euros."

Carney visited the ground at the weekend and was welcomed by Walsall and MK Dons fans.

She signed autographs and also met Saddlers captain Andy Butler.

She is hoping that the unprecedented support at the Olympics, where more than 70,000 people watched Team GB at Wembley, will spill over.

Tickets are now on sale at Walsall Banks's stadium for England's final qualifier.

The ticket hotline is 01922 651 416 or [www.eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc](http://www.eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc)

## Rising stars to shine in the ring

STOURBRIDGE'S Steven Pearce and Brierley Hill's Kyle Spencer have been backed to shine in their next pro assignments at Walsall Town Hall.

Pearce and Spencer are both on next Friday's bill and trainer Shaun Cooper has seen a marked improvement from them in the gym.

Behind-the-scenes at Coops Boxing Camp in Brierley Hill, Cooper has worked with the pair since they both turned over in October of last year.

'Fierce' Pearce – Midlands champion in the BABA Novices as an amateur – has two fights' more paid experience, so is down for a six-round. The 27-year-old welterweight is up against scrapper Billy Smith.

Cooper said: "Pearce has really improved and he's banging people around in sparring, but we have got him boxing as well."

"We are getting him away from scrapping now. It's a good stepping stone for him."

"You can dish it out to Billy Smith all day long and he's still going to be in front of you at the end of it."

Spencer is still growing as a pro and missed his third fight in June due to a chest infection.

'The Style' has scored points wins over Aaron Fox and left Rick Boulter with black eyes after their bout in March. The 22-year-old light-middleweight is still an unknown but could be a future Midlands champion, according to Cooper.

He said: "Kyle will shock everybody, once he gets a few more fights under his belt."

For tickets to the Walsall show, call the box office on 0845 111 2900.

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# ELLIE CAN STAND THE HEAT IN POOL

WALSALL swimming star Ellie Simmonds confirmed her status as one of the faces of the Paralympic Games with two more medals.

Simmonds, aged 17, already had two golds in the bag but added a silver and a bronze to justify her status as one of the greatest Paralympic swimmers of the modern era.

The expectation heaped on her after her gold rush four years ago in Beijing was immense. But she delivered.

Simmonds smashed her own world record by five seconds in the 400m – clocking 5:19.17s – and her Games-long battle with American teenager Victoria Arlen was one of the stories of the Paralympics.

Simmonds has dominated since winning double gold in Beijing, taking 15 consecutive major titles, including 10 world golds, in the last three years. But she admitted, especially in the 400m, to feeling the heat from the home crowd.

**Amazing** "I felt like I had a lot of pressure on me," said Simmonds.

"It means so much to win a gold at your home Paralympics and the pressure was quite hard to deal with."

"The crowd were amazing, they got me to that wall first."

"People expected me to get gold, which was not the case with Victoria on the scene."

Simmonds was tearful after her victories – and after her bonus bronze in the 50m, her fourth strongest event.

"I was hoping to go for a personal best and see what happened so to get a bronze, I will definitely take that."

Arlen paid tribute to Simmonds, adding: "The crowd were really rooting for her but that made me rise up."

## Peace of history as seconds take the honours



Proud Pelsall display their trophies after they won the Staffordshire Clubs second XIs knockout tournament

PELSALL'S second XI outshone their first-team counterparts at the Staffordshire Clubs Knockout finals day.

Tom Peace was the hero for Pelsall as they beat Milford Hall to claim the second XI trophy.

Peace hit a half-century to guide his team as they slipped to a nine-wicket

side past Milford's challenging 172 defeat at the hands of Milford in their final. South African all-rounder Derek Mitchell hit 35 and Andy Smith made 23 as Pelsall made 118-9 from their 20 overs.

Milford then eased home with 11 balls to spare.

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